

Irish News

CORK—The C.Y.M.S.

Owing to the untiring exertions of Rev. M. B. Kennedy, C.C., a very fine and commodious hall has come into the possession of the Catholic Young Men's Society, Fermoy, County Cork. It was blessed and opened by the Most Rev. Dr. Browne, who said that while a sound education in religious and secular matters was of the greatest importance to children, there were reasons hardly less urgent why they should see to the welfare of young men who had arrived at a perilous time of life. His Lordship detailed many advantages of a Society such as they had in Fermoy, and appealed to the young men of the district to join it.

The Bells of Shandon

In the course of a notice of the Protestant Archdeacon of Cork, the Rev. D. H. Powell, who has just been appointed Dean of Residence in the Queen's College there, a London evening paper states that he "has been since 1878 Rector of St. Mary's, Shandon, the church made famous by 'Father Prout' in his 'Bells of Shandon.'" Father Prout's 'Shandon Bells,' as a matter of fact, are in the Church of St. Ann, Shandon, beneath the steeple of which 'the redoubtable Oliver Yorke'—as Carlyle called him—'is buried.' A writer in the 'Daily News,' commenting on the mistake above noted, remarks as follows: 'Almost by the side of St. Ann's, Shandon, is the imposing Catholic Cathedral, and whatever may have been the merits of the bells of St. Ann's in Father Prout's time, the fine peal which so many visitors of the present day hear and believe to be the famous 'Shandon Bells' are, as a matter of fact, the bells of the Catholic Cathedral, the existing peal in the neighboring Protestant church being decidedly poor.'

Mandeville Memorial

A beautiful memorial Irish cross is to be shortly erected over the grave of the late John Mandeville, in the churchyard of Kilbehenny, Mitchelstown. It is an excellent example of Celtic art and stonework. The material is limestone, and it stands upward of ten feet in height. John Mandeville was a man of splendid physique and unselfish patriotism. He was incarcerated in Tullamore Gaol in 1887 for his efforts as a leader of his countrymen in the great movement for the abolition of landlordism, the betterment of the toiler's lot, and the national regeneration of Ireland. The tortures inflicted on him during his imprisonment shattered his magnificent frame, and he died a short time after his release.

DOWN—A Golden Jubilee

The golden jubilee of the Right Rev. Mgr. M'Cartan, P.P., V.G., was celebrated on a recent Sunday in Dromore. Addresses were presented, and subsequently the members of the societies who presented the addresses were entertained to dinner by the Monsignor.

The Stewart Estate

A large and representative public meeting of the tenants of seventeen townlands on the estate of the trustees of Miss Ena D. T. Stewart was recently held in the Temperance Hall, Banbridge, for the purpose of discussing the terms offered by the agent for the sale of their holdings under the Land Purchase Act, and arriving at a decision as to what proposals should be offered by them for purchase. Mr. Alexander Morrow (chairman) presided. It was unanimously decided that the tenants agree to accept 5s in the £ on second term rents, and 7s in the £ on first term rents, with one year's rent to be forgiven all the tenants, and all arrears to be wiped out.

DUBLIN—An Old Charity

The Sisters in charge of St. Joseph's Asylum, Portland-row, Dublin, are proceeding with the erection of a new wing to the institution, in which aged single women of virtuous life are provided with a home in their declining days. St. Joseph's Asylum was established in 1839, through the efforts of Dr. Blake, Bishop of Dromore, and a generous layman, Mr. James Murphy. It is the only Catholic institution of its kind in the three Kingdoms. The estimated cost of the addition will be about £5000.

GALWAY—A Banana Crop

A bunch of Irish-grown bananas from Kylemore Gardens, County Galway, was exhibited at the Corporation Fruit Market in Dublin recently. They were

grown by Mr. William McDonald, and for some time these home-grown bananas have been used for the table of the Duke of Manchester. The sweetness and flavor are said to surpass that of the foreign-grown kind. Much interest is being taken in this experiment in tropical fruit growing in Ireland.

MAYO—Impending Distress

At a recent meeting of the Swinford District Council, Mr. M. C. Henry, J.P., presiding, a resolution was adopted on the motion of Mr. G. Morrin, C.C., bringing under the notice of the Government the fact that hundreds of the small farms in the Union will be without the means of subsistence before many months, principally owing to the almost total failure of the potato crop.

Mr. O'Donnell, M.P., Censured

Claremorris District Council has unanimously passed a resolution declaring that Mr. John O'Donnell, M.P. for South Mayo, is neglecting the interests of the constituency by his absence from Parliament, and calling on him to attend regularly in future. Apart from his differences with other members, the Council felt that Mr. O'Donnell's absence from Parliament, especially during the Town Tenants' Bill discussion, was a disadvantage to his constituents. Mr. O'Donnell is a follower of Mr. O'Brien, and has figured prominently in recent cable messages from Ireland regarding the 'split' in the Nationalist Party.

MEATH—Hidden Treasure

In the Dublin Courts a few weeks ago an extraordinary case came to light of hidden treasure in an old Meath mansion, formerly inhabited by Miss Augusta Magan. In her house, Killyon Manor, after her death, valuables, found money in all shapes in all sorts of places. Gold coins were found lying about the floors, in cups, and all sorts of receptacles. £5-notes were also found in all kinds of unlikely corners and crevices, and jewellery and valuables likewise. The cash and goods thus found reached hundreds of pounds in value. The lady left estate worth £55,000, and her eccentricities are now puzzling the Courts.

WATERFORD—A Mining Revival

The directors of the Bonmahon Mines Development Syndicate recently issued a number of invitations to a view of the mines and works at Bonmahon, near Kilmacthomas, County Waterford.

WESTMEATH—The Paget Estate

The tenants on the Paget Estate at Ballymanus and Thureshammer, have arrived at the following terms for purchase with the agent, Mr. J. C. French:—First term, reduction of 8s in the £, 18½ years' purchase; second term, 6s in the £, 21½ years' purchase. Two evicted tenants are to be reinstated—one getting a clear receipt, and the other to pay a half year's rent.

GENERAL

Prisons Report

The General Prisons Board, in their report for 1905-1906, state that the number of prisoners committed for Ireland in 1905 was 32,738, the daily average in custody being 2601, an increase of 31 over the previous year, but less than the average for the previous ten years. It is said that there is a slight increase in the number of persons committed for drunkenness. The number of juveniles committed is considerably less than in the last ten years. Great regret is expressed that Magistrates should send children to prison for such offences as trespassing in pursuit of game, or stone-throwing in the street. More attention is being given to the separation of prisoners of corrupt habits from others, and, on the whole, the conduct of all prisoners has been satisfactory.

Vital Statistics

The quarterly return of marriages, births, and deaths in Ireland, for the quarter ended 30th September last, shows that the annual birth-rate was 23.2 per 1000, while the death-rate was 14.4 per 1000. The death-rate in England was slightly larger, being 15.0 per 1000; but, on the other hand, the (crude) birth-rate in that country was 27.2, or exactly four per thousand higher than in Ireland. Yet the birth-rate is 0.2 over the average rate for the corresponding quarter for the previous ten years. The comparison between England and Ireland shows the relative social condition of the two countries; and, while the difference between the (crude) birth-rate of the two countries is so marked,