

Irish News

ANTRIM—Discovery of Minerals

There is a touch of romance in the discovery of immense seams of coal in North Antrim, which should bring great prosperity to that district. In 1767 Hugh Boyd obtained from the Earl of Antrim the right to all minerals from Fair Head to Knockladye, a distance of seven miles, with a wide sweep inland. A large output of coal followed, but with Boyd's death the prosperity of the Ballycastle district ceased. Two years ago Mr. Brande, a mining expert, visited the district. He then invited Professor Cole of the Geological and Survey Department of Ireland, which had previously reported that the coal was exhausted, to make a survey in his private capacity. Professor Cole confirmed Mr. Brande's estimates that there are at least 55,000,000 tons of coal of good quality there. The borings revealed black band ironstone, estimated to be at least 150,000,000 tons, the ore being one of the richest in the world. A third discovery was of an enormous deposit of fireclay, the value of which can be estimated when it is said that firebricks are now delivered in Belfast at a cost of 82 shillings per thousand, whereas they can be delivered from Ballycastle for a little more than 60 shillings. A company, with privately subscribed capital, has been formed to work the deposits.

CLARE—National Pastimes

Replying to members of the Clare Gaelic Athletic Association, who presented his Lordship with an illuminated address, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea expressed earnest sympathy with the efforts of the body to popularise the national pastimes of Ireland.

Death of a Well-known Teacher

Mr. Michael Cusack, who founded the Gaelic Athletic Association of Ireland, died recently in Dublin. Born at Carron, County Clare, September 20, 1847, he had completed his 59th year. Twenty years ago he was the principal Civil Service teacher in Dublin, his academy being at Gardiner's place. He first started teaching at Enniscorthy, in 1864, and leaving there in 1866, he became an assistant teacher at Richmond, County Clare. After that he had an appointment near Coort for two years, after which he became professor of English and Mathematics in St. Colman's, at Newry. Leaving Newry, he went to Dublin on being appointed Professor at Blackrock College, which position he occupied for three years. Then he opened a school at Emmet street, and, requiring more accommodation, he transferred to Nelson street, and finally he had the principal Civil Service College in Dublin, at Gardiner's place. He was always an ardent student and advocate of the Irish language and Irish games, and in 1884 he founded the Gaelic Athletic Association.

CORK—Proposed Memorial

A large gathering of parishioners of Douglas, County Cork, was held on Sunday, December 9, under the presidency of Rev. Father O'Brien, for the purpose of taking steps to erect a memorial to the late Canon Murray, who had been their pastor for nearly twenty years. A committee was formed to make arrangements in connection with the project.

The Fishing Industry

Mr. Henry Sculver, an American consul, in a report from Cork to the Washington Bureau of Manufactures, says that the recent drop in the price of Irish-cured mackerel has forcibly impressed the public as well as the Government with the danger threatening this important national industry. Conditions have vastly improved in the last decade, yet comparison with the early history of the trade shows but too clearly that more strenuous efforts are needed in order that the people and the country may enjoy the full fruition of this great source of wealth hidden in the seas and inland waters of Ireland. There were about 700 Irish boats, with nine men to each boat, engaged in the fisheries last season, and those were only half of the boats and men engaged. The rest came from Scotland, the Isle of Man, and France. Some idea may be had of the importance of this industry to the South of Ireland alone when it is learned that the wages paid to the men engaged on the coasts of Cork and Kerry during the mackerel catch of two months last spring amounted to £170,400. The total spring catch of mackerel for 1905 was 228,000 cwt, and the autumn catch 274,666cwt.

DUBLIN—Lady Ffrench's Estate

The Right Hon. Mary Ann Baroness Ffrench, of Elm Park, Merrion, Dublin, who died on June 3 last, left

estate of the gross value of £34,215. Baroness Ffrench bequeathed £1000 each to her nephews, Lord Ffrench and the Hon. John Joseph Ffrench; £500 to each of her two nephews; £810 to various servants; and left the Stansty Hall estate, Denbigh, to the Right Rev. Francis Mostyn, Bishop of Menavia, to whom she also left, subject to other provisions, the residue of her estate.

Spread of Temperance

Very Rev. Father Aloysius, O.S.F.C., addressing a meeting of working men in the Father Mathew Hall, Dublin, on Sunday, December 9, said that during the past twelve months a great deal had been done for the cause of temperance among their class in Dublin. Next year they intended to hold meetings all over the city and suburbs, and to use every means in their power to bring the subject more fully before the working men. They intended to organise a great temperance banquet, at which the working men would enjoy themselves on temperance refreshments alone.

KILDARE—An Old Will

An interesting will, dated 1678, has just been discovered in a secret drawer at Athy. The testator, John Birkett, is supposed to have been a priest. He directed that his body should be buried at night 'without stir or concourse of people,' unless he suffered at Lancaster, where he hoped some good Catholics would inter his remains, if the law permitted.

Death of a Journalist

The death of a well known and popular journalist, Mr. Robert F. Hughes, who was for some years connected with the 'Limerick Leader,' took place on November 30. The late Mr. Hughes, who was quite a young man, had been ailing for a long time, and his demise was not unexpected. During his connection with the Limerick press he had made many friends, not alone in the city, but throughout the county, and these will regret his early demise. The funeral took place on December 3, from St. David's Church, Naas, amidst many manifestations of grief.

LIMERICK—Clerical Appointments

Rev. George Quain, P.P., Athea, County Limerick, has been appointed Pastor of Bulgaden, rendered vacant by the death of Rev. Father M'Coy, P.P. Rev. Father Cregan, Limerick, has been appointed parish priest of Athea.

The Proposed University

Writing to the Limerick Corporation on the proposed University for Munster, Dr. Windle, President of the Queen's College, Cork, says: 'When Cork, Limerick, and Waterford all agree on a matter affecting the interests of Munster, and when they are supported by resolutions from so many other bodies, I think it will be admitted that there cannot be much doubt as to what the wishes of Munster are in this matter.'

MAYO—A Dying Request

Complying with the dying request of his mother, Mr. Patrick J. O'Brien, of Philadelphia, U.S.A., will have her body interred in the land of her birth, Ireland. She was temporarily buried on November 24, in the family vault of Holy Cross Cemetery, and in the spring the body will be removed to the little village cemetery in Kiltimagh, County Mayo, where Mrs. O'Brien was born 95 years ago. The deceased lady died from a stroke of apoplexy. She successfully carried out the tradition of longevity in the O'Brien family, for her three sisters had lived to the ages of 95, 100, and 105 years. She is survived by three sons and a daughter, all living in Philadelphia.

MONAGHAN—A Centenarian

The death took place in the early part of December of Mr. Henry M'Kearney, of Carricknure, Clontibret, County Monaghan, who had attained the ripe old age of 103 years. He retained in a remarkable degree all his faculties almost unimpaired to the last, and was never known to be sick a day. In long winter nights he delighted in narrating events of which he was an eye-witness that happened in the early years of the last century.

WATERFORD—The Christian Brothers

Most Rev. Dr. Sheehan, Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, solemnly opened and blessed the new chapel just erected at the Christian Brothers' Schools, Mount Sion, on December 8. His Lordship presided at High Mass on the occasion. There was a large and representative attendance of the citizens and of Christian Brothers from other houses of the Order, including Carrick-on-Suir, Tramore, New Ross, and elsewhere.

J. O'ROURKE,

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