

Irish News

ANTRIM—The Political Outlook

Addressing a meeting of the Ulster Protestant Electoral Union in Belfast, Mr. Lindsay Crawford dealt with the political outlook in Ulster. In the course of an interesting speech, Mr. Crawford dealt with the political forces at present operating in the Northern province, and contended that the balance of power was moving steadily democraticwards. He referred in scathing terms to the official Unionist party as incorporating all the evil traditions of feudalism, and which could not hope to survive another generation. He (the speaker) was prepared for reverses and the treachery of weak friends, but there was 'one thing operating steadily and remorselessly in their favor, and that was the death-fate. Their nearness to victory depended upon whether their death-rate was high or low. He would not be accused of praying for the death of their opponents; but when the harvest was fully ripe, and when, in the wisdom of Providence the older generations passed away to sleep with their fathers, it would be found that many an old crusted Tory had, by his death, done more for the welfare of his unfortunate country than it was ever possible to achieve while he was living. The future hope of a country lay with the younger generations, and no student of Irish life could be ignorant of the fact that the rising generation was turning its back on the Tory influences that governed the actions of its predecessors, and was standing with hope and confidence on the threshold of a new era. Young Ireland was to-day as liberal and progressive in its political aspirations as the older generations were Tory and reactionary. In the towns and villages of Ulster to-day the sons of Tory Orangemen were ashamed of the Orange drum, and were thinking intelligently along Irish lines.

ARMAGH—Death of two Leading Merchants

On December 17 the funerals of two leading Armagh merchants, Messrs. Joseph Gillespie and Thomas Foster, took place here. Mr. Gillespie was one of the largest seed merchants in the North of Ireland, and Mr. Foster carried on a very extensive business as a timber and coal merchant.

Orange Rowdism

Mr. Justice Kenny and a jury were occupied at the Ulster Winter Assizes in Belfast hearing evidence in the case of seven Orangemen charged with being ringleaders in a riot which occurred in the village of Tandragee, County Armagh, on the occasion of the visit of a large body of Belfast Orangemen on August 18 last. His Lordship said the evidence showed that the constabulary had to resort to baton charges, and nobody regretted more than he did that the prisoner Thompson, whose eye had been knocked out, should have put himself within the meshes of the law to the extent he had. It was a deplorable circumstance, but the whole thing was deplorable. One hundred and eighty-one windows were broken, and of twenty-seven houses affected twenty-three of them were Catholic houses. These party rows were to be deprecated, and he was sure the judge deprecated them. It would be a merciful thing if people would get a little sense into their heads, and act a little more with the spirit of mutual toleration. After an hour's deliberation the jury found the prisoners guilty, with a recommendation to leniency. Sentence was deferred.

CORK—The Presentation College

The report submitted by Rev. Brother Connolly, the Superior of the Presentation College, Cork, at the presentation of prizes there by the Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan, before the dispersion for the Christmas holidays, was one that any educational institution might well be proud of, and showed remarkable successes in such public examinations as those of the Intermediate, the Civil Service, the Royal University, and the Medical Schools. As his Lordship remarked in his speech (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), the Community began in a very poor way; yet by their energy and straightforward dealing they have established a College which might be put in competition with any school in the Three Kingdoms. The Brothers' one whole aim, he said, was the spiritual and material good of their boys, and, while their reward in this world was not great, as worldly things go, they did not mind that, as they looked to a higher reward in another world. Everybody will agree with him that the remarkable progress of the

Presentation College should give all Corkmen great consolation. No doubt it does, and no doubt there are few citizens of the Southern capital who are not proud to have in their midst such a centre of enlightenment and sound education.

Church Music

The movement for the improvement of Church music has made a good deal of progress in Ireland, a fact brought out prominently in the course of a lecture on the subject the other day to the members of the Cork Young Men's Society by Mr. John F. Murray, professor of Ecclesiastical Chant in the Diocesan Seminary, Farranferris, and organist and choirmaster of St. Augustine's Church, Cork. After the lecture, which was an able review of the progress of the movement, musical illustrations were supplied by the choir of St. Augustine's Church. The programme, which included three Introits composed in the seventeenth century, some specimens of the work of the Palestrina school, and an admirable example of modern choral music, the 'Gloria' of one of Dom Perosi's Masses, was rendered in admirable style, the singing of the Gregorian Chant being quite a revelation of the sublimity and devotional expression of the music.

Gas Explosion

A violent gas explosion occurred at the Fermoy railway station a few days before Christmas, resulting in severe injury to the stationmaster, Mr. Metcalfe, a ticket-collector, and a porter of the Royal Hotel. There was an escape of gas in the first-class waiting-room, which the stationmaster and the ticket-collector tried to discover. Corcoran held a light near the ceiling, with the result that a loud explosion followed, wrecking the room, the doors and windows of which were shattered. A commercial traveller, who was on the platform reading a newspaper, was also injured.

DERRY—Orange Parade

The customary Orange and Apprentice Boy Parade in connection with the celebration of the anniversary of the Shutting of the Gates of Derry prior to the siege of more than two centuries ago took place on December 18. The weather was dry, but dull. The term dull could also be fittingly applied to the proceedings of the brethren. Speaking generally, the citizens took little or no interest in the parade, the whole programme being left to about a couple of hundred youthful bandmen, supplemented by about a score of Apprentice Boy office bearers.

DUBLIN—Small Damages

On December 17 the action in which Major John MacBride sued the 'Independent' Newspapers, Limited, for libel was tried before Mr. Justice Gibson and a city special jury. The jury found for the plaintiff on all issues, with £1 damages. This did not carry costs.

Ennobling Work

Very Rev. E. A. Crehan, D.D., C.S.Sp., Dublin, presided at the quarterly general meeting of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, held in University College, Stephen's Green. In the course of an address, which deeply impressed his audience, he said nothing was better calculated to develop in young men a supernatural and truly religious spirit than the work they had to do as members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. To be concerned in works of charity, to be brought into contact with God's poor, even in a small way, to see how much human misery there was around them, to be touched with compassion for that misery, was undoubtedly calculated to evoke the best sentiments of the human heart and make an indelible impression on the mind of a young man. He would learn by experience that the very keenest pleasure the world could give was insignificant compared with the sweet content and peaceful joy which flooded the heart when one had contributed to soften the anguish or relieve the distress of one of God's poor.

Charitable Institutions

The Most Rev. Dr. Walsh, Archbishop of Dublin, speaking on the occasion of the opening of the new wing to the Maternity Hospital, Holles street, said £15,850 of public money was voted by Parliament each year as a State subvention to a number of hospitals in the city of Dublin, and every penny of that money went to ten or eleven hospitals that were under management that was either exclusively or predominantly Protestant, so that consequently the claims of their great hospitals, the Mater Misericordiae, St. Vincent's, the Hospice for the Dying, and the Children's Hospital in Temple street, were simply ignored. The Holles street Hospital, with its new wing, was