

Appointed School Inspectors

Mr. James Fenton, N.T., and Mr. Joseph O'Neill, M.A., who have been elected Junior Inspectors of National Schools, are both well-known Gaelic scholars and native speakers of Irish. Mr. Fenton comes from Caherdaniel, one of the most Irish-speaking places in Kerry, and is responsible for a good deal of literary work in Irish. Mr. O'Neill is an Oireachtas prize essayist, having won the 'Weekly Freeman's' gold medal in 1903, and he has also made a deep study of Old Irish. He is a native of County Galway. He graduated at Queen's College, Galway, and afterwards held an appointment at the Albert College, Glasnevin, which he relinquished some time ago to become Lecturer in Modern Irish at the Victoria University, Manchester. He studied Old Irish under Professor Strahan at the School of Irish Learning, and continued his study in this subject at Freiburg.

Not Irish Manufacture

A prosecution of interest to the Irish poplin trade and all concerned in the protection of Irish manufacture from fraud, brought under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, was heard recently at the Summary Court, Glasgow, before Sheriff Mackenzie. The proceedings were at the instance of Messrs. Richard Atkinson and Co., Irish poplin manufacturers, Dublin, against the Glasgow and Belfast Linen Co., 29 Jamaica street, Glasgow, and John Thomas, sole partner thereof; and the charge was that on three separate occasions in November and December, 1906, they had in their possession and for sale, and did sell to various individuals, ties exposed in their shop windows as 'Irish poplin ties, 6½d each; three for 1s 6d; usual price, 1s 6d each.' This, it was alleged, was a false trade description under the Act, the ties so sold being not Irish poplin, but were manufactured from mercerised cotton and silk. After a lengthy hearing nominal penalties were imposed, as the plaintiffs intimated that the cases were brought as a warning to others.

The Cause of Sobriety

Workers in the cause of sobriety (writes a Dublin correspondent) have good reason to feel satisfied with the progress achieved within recent years. Drunkenness has diminished to a marvellous extent in the country. This happy change is due to several movements, each of which, in its own way, did its share in the work. Little wonder, then, that the speakers at the annual meeting of the Irish Association for the Prevention of Intemperance, in the Rotunda, recently, were jubilant. Right Rev. Dr. Mannix, President of Maynooth, who occupied the chair, spoke of a time when legislators seemed overawed by the power of the liquor interest, but they had lived to see a happier day. He dealt with recent legislation on the subject, and advocated total Sunday closing of public houses in the exempted cities—Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Galway, and Limerick. The bona fide traveller traffic was strongly condemned, and a hope expressed that it would be abolished. Mr. T. W. Russell, M.P., Mr. W. Redmond, M.P., and other speakers delivered vigorous addresses, which were warmly applauded.

The University Problem

The topic which is uppermost in the minds of all classes at the present moment—those who desire to see a galling injustice continued as well as those who long to see it remedied—is the pronouncement made by Mr. Bryce, in reply to deputations of Catholic and Presbyterian gentlemen who waited upon him (writes a Dublin correspondent). He outlined the Government scheme for solving the Irish University Question. Briefly stated, the Government scheme as expounded at much length by the retiring Chief Secretary is as follows: Dublin University is to be made the National University of Ireland and the only one in the country. It is to include Trinity College, Dublin; the Queen's College, Belfast; the Queen's College, Cork; and the new college founded and equipped with special regard to the needs of Catholic students as recommended in the majority report of the Royal Commission. One of the most important matters in connection with the college is who the governors are to be and by whom to be selected or elected. Mr. Bryce stated that they would be, in the first instance, appointed by the Crown, and thereafter partly by the Crown and partly by the teaching staff and the graduates who would belong or be attached to the proposed college, and that when the system would be in full operation the Crown nominees would be in a minority. The governors would be empowered to make arrangements for religious worship and instruction, but no State money would be provided for that purpose.

People We Hear About

The Hon. Judge Fitzgerald, who presides at the sensational trial of Thaw, the American millionaire, was born in County Clare, and educated at the Jesuit College, Limerick.

Among the distinguished visitors at present hunting in Meath are two of the young Princes of Orleans. They are the guests of Mr. P. F. Collier, an American sportsman, who has hunted in Ireland for several seasons. He is master of the Meadowbrook hounds, New York State.

The Hon. John Beresford Campbell, who has been appointed the High Sheriff of Galway for 1907, is the son of Lord Stratheden and Campbell, and therefore the grandson of the celebrated Scot who became Baron Campbell in 1841, when he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland, a position which he held for six weeks only. The Hon. John Campbell is now a domiciled Galwayman, with a residence at Moycullen, in Connemara, once the home of the fighting O'Flahertys.

As Pius X. (says the 'Catholic Times') was returning the other day from his daily walk in the Vatican Gardens, three Church dignitaries of high rank inquired after his health. 'Thank you,' the Pope is said to have smilingly replied, 'I need have no fear, for I know I have yet six years to live.' When some astonishment was expressed as to what led him to such a positive prediction, he explained: 'I was vicar at Tombolo nine years, head priest nine years at Solzano, nine years Canon at Treviso, Bishop of Mantua and Patriarch of Venice for the same length of time. I have been Pope for three years, so, you see, I have six years left to me in which to accomplish my task.'

'I am very glad to hear (writes a correspondent of the Ceylon 'Times') that Mr. Hugh Clifford is to be our Lieut.-Governor, and exceedingly sorry to hear of his wife's death, as I have known them both for over 23 years. He and I were boys together in France, and in the days of the high life had many a tour through Brittany and elsewhere, where a bike in those days had never been seen, and often did we have to run the gauntlet of stones, sticks, and furious dogs through various villages. Clifford was a fine boy, good cricketer, 'rugger' player, and oarsman; and I am sure will be well liked in Ceylon. They are all devout Catholics; and a young brother of his, I think, is a priest.'

Sir Henry Bellingham, who some time ago inaugurated at Castlebellingham, County Louth, the system of setting up the wayside cross in Ireland, has been a convert for nearly forty years. He has given the following account of his conversion: 'The personal example and simple faith of the Irish poor were the first things that impressed me. I compared it favorably with the class of Protestants in Ireland amongst whom I mixed, and whose doctrines consisted more in hatred of Rome than in any definite belief. The language they used first irritated and then disgusted me, and predisposed me to make enquiries. At Oxford I was still further impressed by the conversation of many of my acquaintances, especially of the late Father Clarke, S.J., then a Protestant minister and Fellow of St. John's College. I always considered that my conversion was largely owing to him.'

Antoine Watteau, whose fame as a painter has been recalled by the discovery of one of his pictures in Dunedin, was born at Valenciennes, in France, in 1684. Going to Paris as a penniless youth, and getting employment at the sorriest backwork of painting, he began to come into his own about the year 1717, when he was made a member of the Academy. His worth had been so far recognised as to procure him an associate a few years earlier. He died in 1721, at the age of 37. His paintings were chiefly small landscapes presenting generally some idyll of mock pastoral with figures in court dress. In virtue of the exquisite precision of their drawing, the grace of their design and the charm and brilliancy of their coloring, his works still live, although his reputation as an artist is but a shadow of what during his lifetime he enjoyed. The largest collection of Watteau's—that made by Frederick the Great—now belongs to the German Emperor, but many are in the hands of English collectors.

Australia produced last year 15,000 tons of sugar more than she could consume, the figures being 204,634 tons produced and 189,540 tons consumed.