

Decrease of Crime

The statistical tables of the Dublin Metropolitan Police for the year 1907 show that the total number of indictable offences committed within the district was 2980, as compared with 3151 in the previous year, in connection with which 1203 persons were made amenable, and 845 were convicted. Two thousand six hundred and twenty-eight of the offences were offences against property without violence, 78 offences against the person, 188 against property with violence, 36 of malicious injuries to property, and 50 other offences.

GALWAY—Cattle-Driving Condemned

On the occasion of his visitation of the Milltown parish, the Archbishop of Tuam strongly condemned cattle-driving. He exhorted the people not to be misled by public speakers and politicians, who might seek to persuade them that 'cattle-driving' was not wrong and against the law of God; such persons were only the agents of the devil in seeking to discolour the truth of the Word of God. In doing it they were breaking the law of God, and, if any temporal advantage was gained by it, it was paid for too highly. People paid too highly for any temporal advantage that they broke the law of God to obtain. Looking at it, from the lowest point of view, cattle-driving was not of any advantage to them. He had been speaking recently in Dublin to two of the Estates Commissioners, and amongst other things they talked of was cattle-driving in the West. He did not like to quote the words that passed between them, but this much, he thought, it was no harm to say: 'Of course (said they) the agitation won't prevent us buying land where there has been cattle-driving if the landlords sell to us; but it will be a very serious questions as to whom we will give this land to. They,' continued his Grace, 'have the right to subdivide these lands, and although they did not say they would do it, they left it to be inferred that they would not select those men who had taken part in, or advocated, cattle-driving. I confess,' added his Grace, 'that if I had the power I would not give one sod to the man who would be a party to cattle-driving. I don't think he is an honest man. When I say that, I don't mean that he would pick pockets, but I say that any man who conspires to injure or cause loss to another is not honest, and is doing what is not lawful in the sight of God.'

LONGFORD—Death of a Canon

Very Rev. Canon Fullam, President of St. Mel's College, Longford, died on June 4. He was held in much esteem by the clergy and laity of Ardagh diocese. During his administration of the Diocesan Seminary he made many useful changes in it.

TIPPERARY—A light Calendar

Addressing the Grand Jury at Nenagh Quarter Sessions on June 10, County Court Judge Moore said there were only two cases to go before them, and one man was charged in both cases. He was glad to say that these were the only cases, and for the last several sessions there had been very few cases.

GENERAL

Agricultural Laborers

The main points in the annual report of the Department of Agriculture on Irish agricultural laborers are as follow:—In 1907, approximately 24,000 agricultural laborers migrated for an average of five to seven months to England and Scotland, where they found employment as farm laborers. The average wages earned by these men laborers may be placed at not less than 18s a week when engaged by the week, month, or season. When working on piece work, much higher earnings were made, exceeding in some cases 30s a week. On the whole, employers of these Irish workers have a high opinion of their capacity as workers. The number of agricultural laborers in Ireland has seriously decreased, and in the Census Returns for 1901 the number of agricultural laborers amounted to 217,652, in addition to which there were 76,870 general laborers, most of whom are agricultural laborers. The respective numbers in 1871 were 446,682 and 193,839. While, in some cases, the wages of agricultural laborers in Ireland reach from 14s to 16s a week, and even higher, the average wage, taking the country as a whole, including the value of the allowance in kind, is estimated to be not more than 12s a week. The number of farms exceeding 30 acres, on most of which hired labor is required, exceeds 165,000, and embraces three-fourths of the total area of Ireland.

In Italy only incomes of £16 a year or less are exempt from taxation. In Prussia the limit is £45.

People We Hear About

The late King of Portugal was a sportsman and a good shot as well, and once at a dinner the rather inferior shooting of an English visitor was praised, and someone said, 'And Lord Gadabout, you know, sends everything he shoots to the hospitals.' The King laughed, and, taking the long black cigar from his lips, he said, 'Naturally, since he never shoots anything but game-keepers.'

Reuter's correspondent, writing of the meeting of King Edward and the Czar, says:—'On the stern of the Standart (the Czar's yacht) is a great golden Imperial double eagle, surmounting a red shield with white centre. She is a floating palace, speckless and spotless. Her commander is Captain O'Hagan.' O'Hagan does not strike one as a name peculiar to the Muscovite Kingdom.

The Rev. Father Gleason is the Catholic chaplain attached to the American Fleet, which is due at Auckland next week. Speaking of him, the editor of the Los Angeles 'Graphic' says: 'After listening to Chaplain Gleason, I do not wonder at a story that is told of him. It seems that when the fleet was getting ready to start from the Atlantic coast every one of the sixteen captains asked for Father Gleason as ship's chaplain. "If you all want him so badly," said Admiral Evans, "I guess he is good enough to minister to the spiritual needs of the flagship; he will be with the Connecticut."'

The King of the Belgians is very fond of travelling about incognito, and has sometimes met with amusing experiences. He was once staying at a fashionable French watering-place, and, while out walking quite unattended, happened to push against a fierce-looking Frenchman. The latter was highly incensed, and rudely told his Majesty to look where he was going to. 'You are probably not aware,' he shouted, 'that I am a member of the Paris Municipal Council?' 'Dear me, no,' replied Leopold, quietly, 'I offer you my humble apologies, for I—I am only the King of the Belgians!'

Hetty Green, the eccentric old 'richest woman in America,' was thus reported in an interview recently:—'My son Ned was brought up as a young man should be, according to my ideas,' she continued after a little pause. 'He was looked after right. I was brought up as a Quaker myself, but Ned was sent to a Catholic school in Pennsylvania because we knew he would be under close restraint there, and would not have so many temptations as in other colleges. You know, one time not long ago,' she continued with a chuckle, 'somebody asked him what church he belonged to, and he replied, "I was born a Quaker; I was educated as a Catholic, and by profession I suppose they call me a Jew." That last, you know, was because he was making so much money,' Mrs. Green explained with another chuckle.

Apropos of King Edward's visit to the Czar, a story is told of an awkward incident which marked the recent visit of the King of Sweden to Russia. As is usual in Russia, the King was offered on his touching Russian soil, bread and salt in a golden salver. The jeweller had been instructed to engrave on the salver the King of Sweden's coat-of-arms. This artist, however, was apparently unaware of the fact that the Union between Sweden and Norway exists no longer. Consequently he engraved the coat-of-arms of the two countries on the salver, and this mistake was not found out before the presentation was made. His Majesty, however, immediately noticed the faux-pas. He said nothing, but soon after the ceremony laid the salver aside and did not take it home with him. The Russians are in a dilemma, not knowing whether to replace the salver by a correctly engraved one or whether they should let the matter rest.

In relating his impressions of King Edward, says a Paris correspondent, M. Noel Dorville, the black-and-white artist, tells how, while drawing the King's portrait at Buckingham Palace for the Entente Souvenir Album, his Majesty criticised his work with great discrimination, remarking, 'We have rather artistic tastes in my family. The Queen, my mother, drew very well, and I myself wielded the pencil when a boy. Apropos, how do you fix your drawings, Monsieur? I used to fix them simply with milk, and remember that during some of my first attempts I drank the milk instead of using it for the drawings.' The artist, in the course of the article, recalls an incident narrated to him by Paul Renouard to the effect that King Edward when a boy came across a collection of old pictures, and utilised them, making sketches of his own on the backs. The pictures in question were admirable Holbein portraits now on the walls of Windsor Castle.