

## Irish News

### ANTRIM—Belfast People Pleased

The Rev. Dr. Hamilton, President of Queen's College, Belfast, in the course of his annual report for the academic year 1907-08, says:—It is surely something to gladden our hearts to think that our beloved college is to be elevated to the rank of a complete and fully equipped University of the highest modern type—a University self-contained and self-governing, free from all external control, thoroughly and entirely academic. How will the Ulster members take this after their indefatigable exertions to wreck the Irish Universities Bill?

### DOWN—The New Bishop of Down and Connor

The Very Rev. John Tohill, P.P., V.F., Cushendall, County Antrim, has received official notification of the arrival of Apostolic letters of confirmation regarding his selection by the Holy See as Bishop of Down and Connor in succession to the late Most Rev. Dr. Henry. The newly-appointed Bishop was born in Gortmacrane, in the parish of Tamlaght O'Crilly, Diocese of Derry, on December 23, 1855, and, at an early age, manifested those qualities which in later life so eminently fitted him to discharge the sacred duties of the priesthood. He was studiously inclined, and, after a preparatory course under various teachers in the neighborhood, he commenced the study of classics under the tuition of the famous Mr. McClosky, of Tirlgarvin. Under the care of this noted scholar and teacher, he completed an extensive course, and, in 1873, entered St. Malachy's College, where he read logic and moral philosophy. He entered Maynooth in 1875, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1878. Later on he joined the professorial staff of St. Malachy's College, where he remained for upwards of thirteen years.

### DUBLIN—A Veteran Nationalist

The death is reported of Mr. Alfred Webb, ex-M.P., the hon. secretary of the Irish Party funds, and one of the treasurers of the United Irish League, which took place suddenly on July 30, in the Shetland Islands, where he had been spending a holiday. The deceased was born in Dublin 74 years ago. His family belonged to the Society of Friends. From his earliest years he was actively associated with the Irish National Movement, and was one of the few remaining links with the earliest days of the Home Rule Organisation. Mr. Webb was one of the historic gathering which took place in the Bilton Hotel, Dublin, in the year 1870, at which the late Isaac Butt and Professor Galbraith were instrumental in establishing the Home Government Association. Since that year the late Mr. Webb preserved an unbroken association with the National Movement. He attended the Home Rule League Conference in 1873, presided over by Mr. Wm. Shaw, when the Home Rule League was formed, and later on, under Mr. Parnell's leadership, he was for some years Parliamentary representative of West Waterford. He was always known as a silent worker, and his help to the movement was invariably of a practical rather than a showy character. Thus he acted as treasurer of nearly all the Leagues connected with the National Movement, and was the right-hand man of the leader in financial matters, especially since the decease of Mr. Joseph Biggar, M.P.

### The New Universities

Mr. MacInerney, M.C., speaking at a meeting held on Sunday, August 2, in the pro-Cathedral, Dublin, for the purpose of providing funds for the new parochial schools, referred to the passing of the Irish Universities Bill. The occasion (he said) synchronised with what might be called the birth of the National University of Ireland—which is to be a University entrusted to the people for whose benefit it is intended. It will be a University racy of the soil, instinct with the genius and in sympathy with the highest aspirations of the Irish race. No one could help being struck by the sympathetic words with which Mr. Birrell concluded the debate on the third reading of the Irish Universities Bill, when he said that, in the most depressing circumstances, Ireland always kept the light of learning burning. These words carried the mind back through the centuries almost to the dawn of Christianity in this land. Imagination presented the picture of Ireland holding high the lamp of learning that burned so brightly as to attract scholars and students from every part of Western Europe. In the gloom of evil days it flickered and grew pale, but was kept still burning in the hedge-school and hovel. In hours of utter darkness it smouldered in caverns. It did not die. It was still kept burning. Like the religion and the national sentiment of Ireland, it seemed dowered with immortality. In

one aspect the history of Ireland might be written in the sentence, 'She kept her lights always burning.' What higher praise could be given under the circumstances? It justified the generous title given by Mr. Birrell, when he called it 'a famous race,' a 'great people,' for there can be no brighter record of the fame and greatness of a people than that they struggled, not for power or plunder, or dominion, but for the great principles of humanity—viz., learning, religion, and patriotism. For these, typified by the national emblem, the Irish race did struggle through the night of ages with the courage of heroes, with the devotion of martyrs. It is the birthright of everyone whose lot is cast in a civilised country to have the opportunity of obtaining a course of education which will enable him to attain the highest intellectual development of the gifts with which the Creator may have endowed him, so that not only he might enjoy the fruits himself, but, without loss, share them with his country and with humanity.

### Reception of Irish-American Athletes

The Irish-American team who competed at the Olympic games were accorded a most enthusiastic reception on arriving in Dublin. They were met at Westland Row station by a number of city bands, and were escorted to Wynn's Hotel, in Abbey street, through crowded streets filled with a cheering multitude. The American and Irish flags found a place at frequent intervals. Amongst those who took part in the great demonstration of welcome was Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P. On arrival at Wynn's Hotel, in response to repeated calls for a speech, Mr. John Dolan, secretary of the New York Irish Athletic Association, speaking from the window of the hotel, said they expected a reception of welcome in Dublin, but the reception accorded them fairly took their breath away. They did not know what they would have done at the Olympic games were it not for the Irishmen. Out of seventeen events placed to the credit of America, the Irish-American team was responsible for eight. Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., who was enthusiastically received, speaking afterwards, said that Irishmen, irrespective of class or creed, felt proud of the achievements of the American team at the Olympic games, and particularly of the Irish section, which had distinguished themselves so greatly.

### GALWAY—Death of a respected Citizen

His Lordship the Bishop of Galway, the Right Rev. Dr. McCormack, has sustained a bereavement by the death of his father, Mr. Thomas McCormack.

### KERRY—A Presentation

The Very Rev. Charles O'Sullivan, V.G. and Dean of Kerry, has been presented with a magnificent illuminated address by his former parishioners of Millstreet, amongst whom he labored for twenty-five years. A large deputation attended upon him at Tralee with the address.

### KILKENNY—A Papal Distinction

The Sovereign Pontiff has conferred the Order of St. Gregory on Mr. O'Loughlin, to whose munificence the new Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kilkenny, owes its erection.

### LIMERICK—A Centenarian

Sunk in the recesses of a big rocking-chair in a plain, little room in a neat little flat out in Lawndale, there sits day after day (says an American exchange) one of the most interesting of Chicago's centenarians. John McEmery was born on a farm in the parish of Ballingary, County Limerick, in November, 1803, and for almost four score years lived the simple life of an Irish farmer. Since then he has lived with his three stalwart sons in Chicago, and now sits day after day, musing the songs of his native land, alternately laughing and weeping over its history, and muttering the prayers engraved on his heart by a century of repetition. Except for a little difficulty in hearing, he declares that he is 'sound and whole' and 'able to enjoy life as long as God leaves it to him.'

### A Scholarship Fund

The Earl of Dunraven writes as follows to the Mayor of Limerick:—I have for some time been anxious to do something tangible, however small, to assist the Educational Movement in Ireland, and particularly in the County and City of Limerick. In these circumstances I have decided to establish a "Scholarship Fund" for the benefit of the county and city, which will be employed to provide a higher educational training for those who intend to follow an industrial or commercial career. I am enclosing a copy of the scholarship scheme, which, however, may require some alteration in details, from which you will see that the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction has very kindly co-operated with me, with the result that to the £500

**J. O'ROURKE,**

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