

Irish in the National University

Controversy regarding the position which Irish should occupy in the National University grows apace (writes a Dublin correspondent). There are those who would have a knowledge of the Irish language made compulsory from the very first for students wishing to enter; those who would postpone making it an obligatory subject for some years, and in the meantime encourage the study of it in a practical way; and those who on no account would have the language of the Gael taught in the new University. The latter count for practically nothing, for they are few and represent an infinitesimal number of Irishmen. That Irish will be taught in the National University is beyond doubt. That there will be a Chair of Irish, and that studentships will be founded by which young men of limited means who are willing to study the language may obtain a University education which would otherwise be denied them, is absolutely certain. Between the upholders of the two schemes first mentioned, a bitter controversy rages, a fact much to be deplored, for on both sides excellent Irish Irelanders are ranged. The Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, in a letter to the press, strongly condemns the tone of some of the letters that have appeared in the public press. Miss Hayden, M.A., an advocate of Irish as a compulsory subject, also deplores in a letter to the press the tone in which a good deal of the controversy has been carried on. [A cable message received on Friday stated that the National Convention in Dublin, acting against Mr. Dillon's strong view, by a large majority recommended that the Irish language should be made a compulsory subject in the curriculum at the new University.]

Irish Industries

In the course of a lecture in Dublin on the 'Irish Woollen Industry,' Mr. Oldham, B.A., said that Irish cloths, friezes, serges—white, red, russet, and green—were known and sold in England for hundreds of years, from at least 1200 down to 1600. Not merely was Irish cloth sold in Florence, but it was sold in Bologna in 1315; there is evidence of it in Genoa and Como in 1324; and earlier still, in 1265, at Bruges and Antwerp. There was a systematic policy of kidnapping Irish weavers and selling them as slaves in Bristol, where they were employed as skilled workmen in developing the weaving industry. The destruction of Irish trade and industry during the reign of Queen Elizabeth was referred to. From 1558 to 1603 a systematic policy was pursued by the English people for the purpose of taking the Irish wool and yarn away from Ireland, and not allowing it to be manufactured in Ireland. In 1322 there existed 45 manufacturers in and about Dublin, having 92 billies, employing 2885 working people, manufacturing 29,312 pieces of cloth per annum, of various qualities, the value of the product being £336,000. He referred to the decrease in the number of persons employed in the woollen and worsted industry in Ireland between 1881 and 1901, the figure for 1881 being 8950, and the figure for 1901 being 4550, though the mills in Ireland were very prosperous, and were extending and building up their trade. The explanation in the decrease in the number employed was found in the introduction of labor-saving machinery. Let those who looked to obtaining employment for the people of Ireland not be too hopeful of getting it in the revival of the woollen industry. They could employ ten times as many people in just increasing the tillage of Ireland.

A Refusal

Lord Ardilaun's refusal (says the London correspondent of the *Freeman's Journal*) to allow the London County Council to place a tablet on his residence, 11 Carlton House Terrace, recording the fact that Mr. Gladstone once lived there, is not at all surprising—for Lord Ardilaun. It is the first time that the Council has found anything but the readiest acquiescence on the part of proprietors of houses once inhabited by famous men in a request of this kind. Lord Ardilaun imagines that by his refusal he is in some sort getting even with Mr. Gladstone for bringing forward a Home Rule Bill. This indicates at once a very unsophisticated condition of general intelligence, and a deplorable depth of partisan intolerance; but, after all, what more is there to be said, except that it is Lord Ardilaun's way? It creates surprise here, and is very bad policy to boot; but it will create no surprise where Lord Ardilaun is better known. Even one of his nephews, Mr. Walter Guinness, appears to have pleaded with him against putting this slur on the family name, but fruitlessly.

The potato-crop is considered one of the most promising for years in the Masterton district. A local farmer, who has a large area down in tubers, told an Age reporter that his crop is looking better than previous crops for many seasons past. He states that a neighbor of his, who a few years ago netted £700 out of 20 acres of potatoes, has a larger area down this season in a crop which looks even better than his record crop.

People We Hear About

The Hon. William Gibson, the great Gaelic League enthusiast, is a justice of the peace for the County of Surrey. He is the eldest son of the first Baron of Ashbourne, who was Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and he was born in 1868. He received his education at Harrow, Trinity College, Dublin, and at Merton College, Oxford, and was received into the Church while at Oxford. Mr. Gibson is well known as an ardent and strong supporter of the Irish Language Revival movement, and he was for some time a president of the Gaelic League. He is also a reviver of the wearing of the Irish kilt.

Last week Sir Evelyn Wood unveiled in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, a marble bust to the late Sir William Howard Russell, the famous correspondent of *The Times* during the Crimean war. Sir William Russell was the first, and one of the greatest of the war correspondents. He was an Irishman, like Power, and McGahan, and Donovan, and O'Kelly, and a host of others whose names are famous. He was educated at Dr. Geoghegan's school in Dublin, where he had as contemporary Dion Boucicault, the famous dramatist and actor. He was Dublin correspondent for *The Times*, and reported the famous trial of O'Connell and others for sedition. He was with the German army at Sedan.

Father Matthew Russell, S.J., the well-known author and poet, is the brother of the late Lord Russell of Killowen. He was born in 1834, and was educated at Maynooth. In 1857 he entered the Jesuit novitiate, and seven years later he was ordained. He was occupied in school and church work in Limerick until 1873, and since then his labors have been centred round St. Francis Xavier's, Dublin, and University College, Stephen's Green. Father Russell is editor of the *Irish Monthly*, for which journal he has done great service. Its pages have been a nursery for young authors and poets, and amongst those who owe much to Father Russell for his kindly help in his magazine are W. B. Yeats, Katharine Tynan, Mrs. Francis Blundell, and many others.

Mr. Matthew M. Cleary, governor of Lyttelton Gaol, who is about to retire from the prison service, having passed the age limit, is a veteran civil servant. Mr. Cleary was born in Miltown, County Clare, three-quarters of a century ago, and was only seventeen years of age when he joined the Irish Constabulary. In 1854, when troops were going out to the Crimea, he was on duty in Cork, assisting to keep back the crowd which had gathered to witness the departure of a troopship. Pressed by the crowd, a lady fell off the wharf, and was being carried out by the ebb tide, when young Cleary, in full uniform, jumped in and held her up until both were rescued by a boat. For this act of bravery Mr. Cleary, then only twenty years of age, received special promotion to the rank of sergeant, and was awarded the Royal Humane Society's gold medal. He came out to Victoria in 1857, and in the following year was appointed acting sergeant in the city police in Melbourne, which position he held until 1861. In that year the Gabriel's Gully gold rush broke out in Otago, and the Provincial Government sent to Melbourne for an inspector and two constables for the purpose of organising the police force in Otago. Mr. Branigan (inspector) and Sergeant-major Bracken (both long since dead) and Sergeant Cleary were appointed, and came across to Otago. Sergeant Cleary, with twelve men, under Inspector Morton, were engaged for some time on the gold escort from Dunstan to Dunedin. Sergeant Cleary remained in the police force until 1863, when he resigned and joined the prison service. He had only been two months in the service when he was made principal warder in the Dunedin Gaol. In May, 1867, he was appointed gaoler at Hokitika. He remained there until 1882, and was transferred to Auckland, but the climate there did not suit him, and after two months he was transferred back to Hokitika, where he remained until November, 1888, when he was appointed governor of Lyttelton Gaol, where he has remained ever since. From this it will be seen that he has completed his forty-fifth year of unbroken prison service, during forty-two of which he has been chief gaoler. To a *Press* representative Mr. Cleary said: 'Outside of accidents, I have never had a day's sickness in my life. I took the pledge at the age of eleven years, and have never touched liquor and have never smoked in my life. At the present time I feel as fit as ever I did.'

It does not seem generally known (writes the *Dominion's* Palmerston North correspondent) that it is illegal for milk and produce sellers to sell or deliver milk, butter, or eggs on the holiday afternoons after 1 o'clock. As some dairymen have been selling milk on Wednesday afternoons, the Labor Department is serving notices on vendors that they must cease the delivery of milk on that afternoon.