

courteous language of a gentleman. Unionists treated him as a brave enemy whom they might shoot, but would not insult, and although he never sacrificed an opinion, he returned the respect and even goodwill of his opponents. The Dillon "Cabinet" has been weakened by Mr. Davitt's resignation. It includes Messrs. Blake, Swift-MacNeill, and T. P. O'Connor, but the ex-Canadian statesman is silent, Mr. MacNeill is too impulsive, and "T. P." does not entirely give up to politics what was meant for journalism.

**A Priest who Assisted John Boyle O'Reilly to Escape.**—A St. Paul newspaper says:—'Rev. P. M. McCabe, a Catholic clergyman, is dead of Bright's disease, at St. Mary's, a small mission not far from here. His death recalls an exploit of international interest in which he was a conspicuous actor. It was Father McCabe who was instrumental in liberating the Irish political prisoner, John Boyle O'Reilly, who afterwards became the noted American poet. O'Reilly was sentenced to penal servitude in Australia for loving his country, and proclaimed it too openly. Father McCabe was stationed at the Australian prison as chaplain, and to him O'Reilly confided his intention of making his escape. The priest offered to aid him. On a dark night in 1893 the two met by appointment, and the priest and the prisoner exchanged clothes. In this disguise O'Reilly departed in an open boat without food or drink. After three days of terrible exposure to the perils of the sea he was picked up by an American whaler and carried to Liverpool. Thence he made his way quickly to the United States. When the truth leaked out later Father McCabe was obliged to make a hasty departure from Australia. He went to the United States and applied to Archbishop Ireland for a charge about eighteen years ago, and remained in Minnesota ever since.'

**A Prosperous Benefit Society.**—The report of the twenty-second annual convention of the Irish National Foresters (says the *Irish Weekly*) is most gratifying evidence of the progress of this mighty organisation, whose ramifications have spread not only through Ireland, England, and Scotland, but through America, Australia, and Africa as well. The following extract from the report of the general secretary is instructive:—'As regards increase of membership and funds it beats all previous records by considerable odds, the former increasing by 3581 members, and the latter by £5747 18s 11d. Twelve years ago the number of members was 6018 and the accumulated funds £5119 14s 6d. The number of members now is 24,635 and the funds £40,202 0s 8d. Nothing can indicate more forcibly than these figures the great strides of progress made during these years by the society.'

**Increase of Lunacy.**—The annual report of the Inspectors of Lunatic Asylums for last year shows that there is an increase of no fewer than 714 in the number of the insane in the various institutions under their supervision as compared with 624 for 1897, while the average for the ten previous years was only 444 per annum. The admissions into the district asylums have increased by 184 during the year, and this increase is to some extent accounted for by the large number of transfers from workhouses, where many of the cases entered on the asylum books as first admissions had been resident for years. Notwithstanding the large number sent from the workhouses it is remarked that the number of the insane remaining in them shows no corresponding diminution. The inspectors give statistics to prove that the number of the insane has increased from 250 per 100,000 of the population in 1880 to 417 per 100,000 in 1898, and if to this be added the number of the insane wandering at large according to the census returns of 1891, the numbers will be found to amount to the formidable total of 556 per 100,000. On January 1, 1899, there were in the district asylums 15,289 patients. The number admitted during the year was 3,469, and the number discharged recovered was 1,279, showing a percentage of 36.9 on the admissions. The death-rate was 7.4 per cent, calculated upon the average number resident during the year.

**Mr. Davitt on the Irish Parliamentary Party.**—Addressing a large gathering of his former constituents early in November, Mr. Michael Davitt, ex-M.P., spoke of the complete breakdown of the Irish representation in Parliament. The party, as it stands to-day, he declared, is hopeless and helpless, and attempts to promote unity are as fruitless as efforts would be to put health and strength into a paralytic patient by feeding him. Mr. Davitt's remedy for this state of things is the sweeping out of several members who were elected owing to the split and the dissension which followed upon it, and the complete reorganisation of the party. Sending respectable deadheads to Westminster, he declared, is like sending soldiers without arms to battle. Men of gift and capacity, thoroughly nationalist, honest, upright, and fearless were what was required.

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease. Write to him.—\*

**LONDON DENTAL INSTITUTE.**—£1000 has been deposited by the principal with the Bank of Australasia at Dunedin as a guarantee of our worth. See advertisements. Complete sets from £3 3s; gas, 2s 6d; extractions, 2s 6d and 1s. Absolutely painless. All work guaranteed 10 years. Money refunded if not found satisfactory.—\*

For Christmas and New Year presents we recommend our readers to go to the D.I.C. The wonderful variety and magnitude of the Company's stock is almost bewildering, from the highest class goods to the most moderate priced. Beautiful leather goods, brushware, and rush work, ornaments, jewellery, dolls, puzzles, outdoor and indoor games, all the latest Christmas and New Year cards, etc. A visit to the D.I.C. Fancy Goods Showrooms will well repay you. D.I.C., High and Rattray streets, Dunedin.—\*

## THE CHURCH IN CEYLON.

In the course of a review of the progress of the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Colombo, Ceylon, the *Catholic Messenger* says:—There has been a great increase in the number of missionaries, convents, orphanages, missions, and churches. An Ecclesiastical Seminary which numbers at present 32 students has been established. St. Joseph's College, which was opened on March 2, 1896, has already 610 boys on its roll; its success has been marvellous. St. Benedict's Institute, conducted by the devoted and hardworking Brothers of Christian Schools, never had so many pupils—645 boys are attending their College. A large Orphanage for boys with a Training and Industrial Schools, directed by the native Brothers of St. Vincent de Paul and the European Oblate Lay Brothers, has been started at Maggona. This establishment and the Congregation of the native Brothers are in a very flourishing state. A Reformatory for youthful offenders, who number already 85, has been entrusted by Government to the Director of the said Orphanage. Two other Orphanages have been established, one at Negombo, and another at Moratuwa. In that last place the Franciscan Nuns, Missionary Ladies of Mary, have built also a large Convent, and have a good English School for girls. The Sisters of that Order have been put in charge of the nursing department at the Colombo General Hospital. The Little Sisters of the Poor opened ten years ago a Home for the Aged which has at present two wards and shelters 130 inmates. In less than six years the Sisters of the Holy Family have inaugurated in the North Western Province five Convents for the native Sisters of St. Peter, who count now 83 members in their Congregation.

In the educational returns from September 1, 1898, to August 31, 1899, we notice that the Archdiocese of Colombo possesses at present, besides St. Joseph's College and St. Benedict's Institute, and the Kotahena Convent High School, 11 English schools for boys, and 10 for girls; 150 Vernacular schools for boys, and 151 for girls. Most of the girls' Vernacular schools in the Kalutara, Colombo, and Negombo Districts are conducted by the native Sisters of St. Francis Xavier; whilst in the Districts of Nainamadama, Chilaw, and Kurunegala almost all the girls in the Vernacular Schools are taught by the native Sisters of St. Peter. The total number of schools in the Archdiocese amounts to 325, frequented by 27,517 pupils. The following figures taken from the Ecclesiastical returns from September 1, 1898, to August 31, 1899, speak for themselves and need no comment on our part; they show the enormous work done by the clergy of the Archdiocese. Nine hundred and ninety-three adults were received into the Church; 9167 baptisms were administered; and 1728 marriages were solemnised.

## SALARIES OF CANADIAN MINISTERS.

IN connection with a statement made recently that the salaries of the ministers of Federated Australia would be on a princely scale, the *Catholic Press* gives those paid in Canada:—'Dominion Ministers have salaries of £1400 per annum, except the Premier, who gets an extra £200. The senators are appointed for life by the Crown. They are eighty-one in number, and are paid sessional allowances and railway fares. The House of Commons consists of 213 members, elected for five years, and each member receives £200 as a sessional allowance, with travelling expenses to and from Ottawa; but he forfeits £1 12s for every day's absence beyond a certain limit fixed for each session. Ministers of the Ontario Government receive a salary of £800, except the Premier, who gets £1400, and members are paid £120 each session. In Quebec the Premier gets £1000, Ministers £800, and members, both of the Legislative Council and Assembly, £160. The Premier of Nova Scotia is paid £800, Ministers £640, and members of both Chambers £100. New Brunswick allows £120, £340, and £60 respectively. The scale for Manitoba is practically the same as for Nova Scotia; British Columbia is the same as Quebec, except that members of the Legislature get £120 instead of £160. Prince Edward Island allows a modest £260 for all Ministers, and £35 for members, while the North-West Territories' representatives enjoy £100 per session.

## THE CALEDONIAN SOCIETY'S SPORTS GATHERING.

THE Caledonian Society held their annual sports gathering at their grounds, South Dunedin, on January 1 and 2. On the first day the weather was perfect, and consequently the attendance was very large. The officers of the Society, especially the secretary, are to be congratulated on the excellent arrangements, the programme having been gone through without a hitch. The various events were got off with punctuality, and public interest was not allowed to flag during the day. The Pipe Band and the Naval Brass Band were in attendance and played selections. The following were the results of Monday's meeting:—Grand wrestling competition—Powley, 1; Hynes, 2; Horan, 3. Caledonian handicap—100yds and 350yds, G. Clarke. The one, three, and five-mile bicycle events were won by A. Ralston. The walking events were keenly contested, the two-mile one falling to A. Coleman. In the handicap hurdle race, 120yds, C. W. Bowie secured first place, and in the one-mile handicap J. G. Day (10yds) was declared the winner. A strong south-west wind made matters somewhat unpleasant at the Caledonian Grounds on Tuesday, still the attendance was very good. In the Dunedin handicap (220yds) E. Payne was the first to catch the judge's eye. In the bicycle events the two-mile was secured by J. Hanley, the five-mile by A. Ralston, and the half-mile by J. Orr. The wrestling competitions were very good, and were watched with great interest by a large number of those present. On the whole, the gathering was most successful, and Society are to be congratulated on having provided a couple of days' excellent amusement.