

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—A Venerable Voter.—The oldest voter in Ireland has been discovered in South Antrim. Mr. R. J. Craig, of Bandalstown, writing on the subject, says:—At Toome polling station in South Antrim, in my capacity of presiding officer, I issued a voting paper to an elector who claims to be 105 years old. He is named Henry McCloskey, and resides at Breacart, Toome, where he has spent all his long life. I have known him for a considerable time, and was aware that he was the oldest man in the locality. When he came to the polling booth and applied for a ballot paper I was curious enough—especially as he walked in all the way from his residence, about two and a half miles—to ask him his age. His reply was 105 years. If, as his neighbors testify, this statement is correct, I think he may fairly claim to be the oldest elector, not only in the North of Ireland, but in the whole of the United Kingdom.

DONEGAL.—Tory Island Exempted from Taxation.—Remote Tory Island has a 'King,' or used to have. If there is a sovereign reigning now in the Irish *Ultima thule* he can sing, 'I am monarch of all I survey,' as conscientiously as Alexander Selkirk. The Donegal County Council have given up Tory to itself. They passed the following resolution at a recent meeting: 'That inasmuch as we have been unable to collect any rates on Tory Island through a collector on the mainland, and the utter futility of attempting to appoint a collector on the island as no person living thereon would dare to take such an appointment; and inasmuch as we spend no money on rates or anything else for the benefit of the inhabitants, we request the sanction of the Local Government Board to strike the island off the county map for taxation purposes, as we consider it useless to strike rates which could not be collected and had to be carried from term to term as uncollected rates.'

DUBLIN.—Presentation to a Popular Teacher.—An interesting function took place recently in St. Gabriel's National Schools, Anghrim street, Dublin, in presence of the teachers and pupils. Miss M. Shanahan, who has acted as head mistress in the girls' department for the past five years, is about to be married, and the occasion was availed of by the pupils and teaching staff of testifying to the high esteem in which Miss Shanahan is held. A handsome illuminated address and a silver tea and coffee service were presented by the teachers, and the monitors and pupils on their own behalf presented an address, together with a valuable dinner set and a tea set of very pretty design.

Presentation to Mr. Harrington.—Mr. Harrington, M.P., has been the recipient of a presentation from the members of the North Dock National Registration Association as a token of their esteem on the occasion of his unopposed re-election for the Harbor Division after 15 years' public service to Ireland.

Reception at the Mansion House.—The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress gave an 'At Home' at the Dublin Mansion House in the early part of November, invitations having been issued to the number of 2500 to meet the members of the various temperance societies in Ireland.

Increased Pay to Corporation Employees.—The Dublin Corporation has improved the condition of its laborers in the very important matter of pay. An inquiry regarding the relative remuneration offered by the Dublin Corporation compared with the big English cities proved very unfavorable for the laborers of the capital. Henceforth the men hitherto receiving 17s 6d, 18s 6d, and 19s will receive £1 a week each; and those already in receipt of £1 will receive an advance of 1s, the change to take effect from April next.

Proposed Monument to Wolfe Tone.—A movement to promote the erection in Dublin of a memorial commemorative of the great struggle for Ireland's independence in 1798 was inaugurated in 1898. It is a movement which embraces all sections of Irish Nationalists. Dublin possesses neither statue nor public testimony of any kind to Wolfe Tone or to the other guiding spirits of the great insurrection. The sites of the prisons which held them or of the scaffolds on which they were done to death are still left as the sole witnesses to their magnificent devotion in the cause of Nationhood. This has been a reproach to all Irishmen who cherish their names and memories, and who believe in the principles associated with a fight for freedom which deserved victory for its lofty National purpose, and which defeat has been unable to rob of either glory or renown. It is therefore intended to ask the co-operation of the Irish race at home and in exile in a work of recognition and gratitude, such as can be pointed to in after generations as an evidence of the living spirit of independence which dominated the countrymen of Theobald Wolfe Tone a century after his herculean efforts to crown his fatherland with the priceless heritage of national liberty.

Housing the Poor.—A meeting of the committee of the whole house of the Dublin Corporation was held recently for the purpose of considering the question of the housing of the very poor in the city. The committee had principally under discussion the report of the Town Clerk bearing on the matter. In that report the Town Clerk stated that having consulted with Sir Charles Cameron with a view to obtaining some approximate idea as to the accommodation required to meet the housing problem in Dublin, he found, according to the estimate of Sir Charles, that proper housing accommodation was required for at least 10,000 of the very poor. These being taken with the other classes improperly housed it might be said that about 6000 families in the city required to be provided with cheap and healthful dwellings, consisting of from one to three apartments. It appeared to him that the Corporation

could do very little more than they had already done in the matter until they had obtained by legislation power to borrow £500,000 for the purpose of clearing unhealthy areas, and on such areas erecting dwellings for the working classes and for the very poor, and meeting all incidental and necessary expenses. Alderman Farrell, who presided, proposed that the Corporation should proceed immediately to take steps to borrow £500,000 for the purpose of providing the required housing accommodation. Councillor Jones proposed as an amendment that the committee should adjourn for a month, and that the Public Health Committee be requested in the meantime to procure a return showing the area of the city slums, their population, etc. After a discussion, Alderman Farrell agreed not to press his motion, and the proposal of Councillor Jones was adopted.

GALWAY.—Presentation of an Organ.—Mr. Martyn, of Tillyra, has presented an American organ to the nuns at the Gort Workhouse.

KERRY.—The Bishop of Ross.—At a meeting held in Skibbereen it was resolved to present an address and testimonial to the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Bishop of Ross, on his return from Rome.

Death of a Schoolmaster.—In the *Kerry Sentinel* of a recent date there is an account of the death, after a brief illness, of Mr. D. Leyne, Annascaul. Mr. Leyne, who was a first-class teacher, was head teacher of the local National School for 19 years, a position which he filled with great ability and success. Mr. Leyne belonged to a well-known Iveragh family, the Leynes, to which also belonged on the paternal side another scholarly family, the Horans, who attained high distinction as scholars in Ireland and the colonies in recent years.

LIMERICK.—Proposed Fish Hatchery.—At the first meeting of the new Fishery Board held in Limerick, M. F. M. Pitt, solicitor, presiding, the secretary, Mr. H. E. Poe Hosford, read a letter from the Department of Agriculture which stated that in the event of a definite proposal to erect a hatchery on the Shannon the Department would be prepared to direct a representative, assisted by an engineer, to examine any suggested site and report as to cost. The cost of maintenance would be the wages of one man during the whole year and for two or three assistants during the hatching season. Messrs. Ballingall, Place, and Blood Smith were appointed a committee to draw up a scheme.

LOUTH.—Proposed Presentation to an Archdeacon.—A committee has been formed in Drogheda with a view to presenting a testimonial to the Very Rev. Father Segrave, who was recently appointed parish priest of Drogheda and Archdeacon of the diocese of Armagh.

ROSCOMMON.—Death of Lady de Freyne.—The death occurred on October 26 of the Dowager Lady de Freyne, at her residence, Caher House, Loughlynn, Roscommon. The funeral took place from Caher to Frenchpark parish church, where a Solemn *Requiem* Mass was celebrated. Most Rev. Dr. Lyster, Lord Bishop of Achonry, presided, and there were present 28 priests from the dioceses of Elphin and Achonry. The remains were interred in the family vault at Cloonshanville graveyard.

WEXFORD.—The Gorey Memorial of Ninety-Eight.—The unveiling of the Gorey '98 memorial gave rise to a great National demonstration a short time ago. Triumphant arches, gay bunting, patriotic mottoes, and innumerable green and other flags lent a lively and picturesque appearance to the scene. The special trains from Dublin and Wexford brought thousands of visitors, whilst every parish in the north of the county was largely represented. The procession, which marched through the principal streets of the town, was a most magnificent affair. On the arrival at Gorey Hill the memorial was unveiled by Lady Esmonde. The memorial takes the form of a Celtic cross of a chaste and artistic design. Sir Thomas Esmonde said it was those '98 demonstrations that were the means of bringing together all sections of Irish Nationalists to the one platform, and the good work thus commenced in '98, he hoped, would continue until the ranks of the Irish people were thoroughly cemented.

Death of a Priest.—We regret (says the *Wexford People*) to announce the death of the Rev. John Furlong, Sutton's parish, which occurred at his residence, Kilmannock, after a brief illness. Father Furlong, who was in his forty-first year, belonged to the Franciscan Order for some years, and was a member of the communities in Wexford, Limerick, and Multifarnham convents. He was a native of Kilmore, and was educated at St. Peter's College and afterwards at Isidore's, Rome. Father Furlong was a scholarly man and a very able and eloquent preacher. With the permission of his superiors he joined the secular mission some years ago, and acted as curate in Annacurra and Blackwater. The interment took place in Ballinamona.

A Retreat at New Ross.—The Right Rev. Dr. James Murray, Bishop of Queensland and successor to the late Bishop Hutchinson, opened a week's retreat in the Augustinian Church, New Ross, on Sunday, October 21. This is the first time within our recollection, says the *Wexford People*, that a bishop conducted a retreat in New Ross, and it was availed of to a great degree.

The Oldest Town Clerk in Ireland.—Mr. John Tobin, of New Ross, claims to be the oldest Town Clerk in Ireland. He is retiring shortly from the position which he has held for the last 40 years.

GENERAL.

The Irish Pilgrimage to Rome.—The Irish pilgrims have left the Eternal City (writes a Rome correspondent), delighted with their reception at the Vatican and greatly impressed by all they have seen. At the Church of San Clemente, where they attended