

Irish News.

ARMAGH.

Much regret has been caused by the death of Mr. James Best, Latt, Mullaghglass, County Armagh. Deceased was a Barony High Constable for many years, and prior to the passing of the Local Government Act was a member of the Newry Board of Guardians. He was a large and successful farmer, and took an active part in the promotion of the agricultural show in Newry.

CLARE.—Absence of Crime.

At the Kilrush Quarter Sessions the record of the peaceful condition of West Clare was once more exemplified as unbroken by the absence of any Crown cases. The custom of presenting white gloves to his Honor Judge Carton, on the most creditable state of the western portions of the county, which occurred on Crown days for years, was prevented on the last day by a trivial case of assault, in which the whole forces of the Government were marshalled, but on being called, the sessional Crown solicitor, in deciding to enter a nolle prosequi, said the matter had been decided in the Court below by the fine of a few shillings. His honor described the sending of the case for trial as a most ridiculous proceeding, and he was very sorry the grand and petty juries were obliged to come there over it.

CORK.—The Exhibition.

At a recent meeting of the executive of the Cork Exhibition the secretary reported that, even with the second addition they had made to the great Industrial Hall, the space was filled, and they had to refuse several late applicants. Sir John Scott mentioned that many strangers whom he had met expressed themselves delighted with the site, the building, the rapid progress of the work, and its brilliant promise.

DUBLIN.—The Mary Street Fire.

An influential meeting of citizens, convened by the Lord Mayor, was held recently in the Mansion House, Dublin, for the purpose of raising funds to recoup the employees of Messrs. Todd, Burns and Co, and others who suffered through the recent fire. The Lord Mayor presided, and a long list of subscriptions, including one of £25 from his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, having been submitted to the meeting, a representative committee was appointed to carry out the objects of the meeting.

GALWAY.—The New Member.

Mr. Arthur Lynch, the recently-elected member for Galway, has been interviewed by a representative of the 'Paris Journal.' He declined to state whether he intended going to London for the opening of Parliament or not. In any case, he denied that he had any intention of making his way into the House of Commons in a disguise. He would consult his political friends, and would only move when he was sure of his ground.

Out of Favor.

Colonel Nolan, who was returned unopposed in 1899 as the Nationalist member for Galway North, is now out of favor with his constituents. At a demonstration held at Abbeynock, Moy, a few weeks ago, a resolution was passed asking him to resign.

LIMERICK.—A Wealthy Pauper.

A pauper named Owen McCarthy, who had been an inmate of the Limerick Workhouse for 20 years has just died, and £3910 has been found in his possession. The Master, in reporting the matter, said the man was a miserly fellow, who would never see either a priest, parson, or doctor. The Guardians have consulted the Local Government Board

as to whether they can convert some of the money to the cost of the man's maintenance.

A Sad Occurrence.

Two painfully sudden deaths occurred in the village of Athea, some six miles from Abbeyfeale, County Limerick. A young man named Shine, a letter-carrier, after completing his rounds, entered his parents' house, and proceeded at once to his room. His mother, observing something peculiar in his appearance, spoke to him, but, receiving no reply, went into the apartment, where she was shocked to find him stretched on the bed dying. He expired in a few moments. His father, John Shine, a blacksmith, was not in the house at the time of his son's death, but arrived shortly after. Scarcely had he crossed the threshold when, it is supposed from the terrible shock he received, he fell down dead.

SLIGO.—Local Industry.

Through the personal exertions of Bishop Clancy, of Elphin, it has been decided to start in Sligo a shirt factory on the co-operative principle in order to provide employment for the poor people of the district.

WEXFORD.—Over a Century.

A remarkable old man named John Molloy died a few weeks ago in Wexford at the age of 101 years. Up to a very short time before his death deceased, who was hale and hearty, used to attend first Mass every morning in the Church of the Assumption, Wexford.

WICKLOW.

Very deep regret was aroused in Arklow when the intelligence reached the town that Mrs. Hagan, wife of Mr. Frank Hagan, of Ballykillagear, Ballycoage, and mother of the Rev. Father Hagan, C.C., Ballintogher, County Kildare, had died suddenly. Mrs. Hagan belonged to a well-known and highly-respected family in the County Wicklow.

GENERAL.

A Successful Bank.

The directors of the Munster and Leinster Bank, Limited, have announced a dividend for the half-year ending 31st December last at the rate of 11 per cent. per annum, the addition of £2500 to the reserve fund, the placing of £5000 in the reduction of bank premises account, with £5000 forward.

A Landlord's Opinions.

A Tory Landlord, Mr. John Wilson, of Edgeworthstown, writes the 'Times' to complain of Mr. Wyndham's desertion of the Irish 'loyalists.' To another paper he writes that he 'has felt again and again the strength of one argument in favor of Home Rule, namely, the selfishness and stupidity of the English rule over Ireland.'

The Parliamentary Party.

The Irish party, at its meeting in Dublin about the middle of January, unanimously re-elected Mr. John Redmond Sessional Chairman of the party, and re-elected the old whips and treasurers. On the motion of Mr. Dillon, seconded by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, a resolution was passed protesting against the interference with the right of public meeting in Ireland, and offering congratulations to the M.P.'s sentenced to imprisonment for their energy in defending popular rights. The various committees were re-appointed.

The Irish Question.

Addressing his constituents in Aberdeen, Mr. Bryce, M.P., said:—'We are not done with the Irish question, and we shall not get rid of it by trying to forget or ignore it. It dogs us like a shadow. Sooner or later we must solve it if we are to remove one of the nearest dangers that threatens the Empire. People say that the Home Rule schemes of 1886 and 1893 are gone. So they are. But the main principles by

which we ought to make Ireland a loyal and contented member of the United Kingdom remain, and I trust no Liberal will repudiate them. There is, indeed, no alliance between the Irish party and English Liberals, but we must guard and preserve that surviving fruit of Mr. Gladstone's policy, a sense in the minds of the English Liberals that they are bound to strive to secure justice for Ireland, a sense in the mind of Irishmen that the old hostility of the two peoples was finally ended when one of the great British parties offered to Ireland a message of friendliness and peace.'

A Sidelight on Landlordism.

To anybody who desires to obtain a detailed and realistic picture of what landlordism in the days of the famine really meant, the perusal of the paper entitled 'Reprints and returns relating to evictions in the Kilrush Union,' will be of interest. The Ministers, in order to give Parliament some idea of the West Clare landlords, presented in this volume a series of extracts from the Report of Captain Kennedy, who had been sent down to this union as representative of the Poor Law Commissioners. These extracts begin on November, 25, 1847, and conclude on June 19, 1849. They tell over and over again the same tale of horrors. Here are some specimens—'October 21, 1848. The number of houses now thrown down, and of families thereby rendered totally destitute, is daily increasing to a fearful extent.' 'October 4, 1848. I have forwarded returns of the eviction of 6000 souls since last July!' 'January 22, 1849. I cannot estimate the evictions in the union under 150 souls per week. I see masses of the people starving, and the land which could be made to feed treble the number lying all but waste.' 'May 7, 1849. Notwithstanding that fearful, and, I believe, unparalleled numbers have been unhoused in this union within the year, probably 15,000, it seems hardly credible that 1200 more have had their dwellings levelled within a fortnight.'

The Hon. E. Blake.

In October, 1899, the Hon. E. Blake, M.P., left Canada at a moment's notice and crossed the ocean (says the 'Freeman's Journal') for the purpose of speaking and voting against the grants for the Boer War in its initiatory stages. Mr. Blake disembarked at Liverpool, and, hurrying up to London, was highly pleased at entering the House of Commons just as the division bells were ringing for the first division in the 'War Session,' when it was expected that the 'Promenade to Pretoria' would not last a fortnight, if so long. With characteristic energy and devotion to the Irish cause, Mr. Blake left his Canadian home a fortnight earlier than he had originally anticipated, to be present and take part in the proceedings of the Convention the other day in Dublin. He arrived in the very best of health and spirits, and regards the political situation as most hopeful and promising for the achievement of Irish National rights and liberties.

The Gaelic Language.

The revival of the Gaelic language in literature proceeds apace. The Lord Lieutenant has just accepted the dedication of a new prize cantata entitled 'Sompain' (Gaelic for 'All Hallows E'en'), while 'Hazel's Annual' for 1902, under the heading 'Irish Languages,' says—'In 1881 but 12 pupils passed in the Irish examinations in National Schools; in 1900, 2256 were examined, about 400 teachers have obtained certificates of competency to teach Irish under the Board. Irish-speaking inspectors are sent to the schools that Irish can be used as a medium for instruction in Irish-speaking districts.'