

Irish News.

CLARE.—Strong Reasons.

The Most Rev. Dr. McRedmond, Bishop of Killaloe, has been giving in his Lenten Pastoral the reasons why the Irish bishops deem the indiscriminate and excessive multiplication of public houses such a source of danger, and that they are very strong reasons cannot be disputed. In Ireland, one of the poorest countries in the world, the enormous sum of £15,000,000 sterling is spent yearly on intoxicating liquors. This sum, it appears, more than equals the agricultural rents and the imperial taxation of the country combined. Whilst it is true that the expenditure on intoxicating drinks in Ireland is less than a tenth of the drink bill of the United Kingdom, which amounts to nearly £155,000,000 sterling, or twice the rent roll of the three kingdoms taken together, the duty of Irishmen in this matter is not the less imperative. The evil of intemperance has been allowed to grow too freely. In the year 1845, when the population of Ireland was eight millions and a quarter, the number of licensed houses in the country was 15,000. During the interval since then, while the population has fallen away to less than half or barely 4,000,000, the licenses have increased by nearly 4000—to 18,751. It is a cause for heartfelt satisfaction to see bishops, priests, and people now appreciating the gravity of the danger.

CORK.—The King's Cup.

His Majesty the King has offered a £100 cup for an international yacht race organised in connection with the forthcoming Cork exhibition. It is expected the Meteor, Columbia, and Shamrock II. will compete.

A Strange Language.

Quite a sensation was caused by a well-dressed young lady in a large drapery establishment in Cork recently who addressed one of the assistants in Irish. The assistant replied in English that he did not understand, and asked her to state her wants in English. She spoke again in Irish, and the assistant called the chief of the department to the rescue. As the customer still persisted in addressing him in Irish, he sought the manager, who was an Englishman, and so did not throw much light on the subject. At length, after a council of war, the troublesome customer was conducted upstairs to a department in which was a young country lad, who was able to answer her in the native tongue and give her what she wanted. She was taken from department to department, and left without speaking one word of English during her visit.

A Valuable Prize.

Cardinal Logue has presented a Belleek dinner set, worth £50, as a prize for the bazaar to be held in aid of the Cloyne Cathedral Building Fund.

DOWN.—A Popular Work.

To Ulster Catholics the name of the Rev. James O'Laverty, M.R.I.A., the venerable pastor of Hollywood, County Down, is a household word. As the historian of the diocese of Down and Connor (says the 'Freeman's Journal'), he has given to the public five volumes that are a storehouse of erudition, and are works of invaluable reference to everyone interested in the religious, social, and political history and traditions of Antrim and Down. It is gratifying to note that popular opinion upholds the verdict of the experts. From the annual report of the Belfast Public Library Committee it appears that amongst the 21 books called for during last year O'Laverty's 'Diocese of Down and Connor' occupies sixth place.

Parliamentary Election.

In consequence of the retirement of Mr. McCartan from the representation of South Down an election of a new member became necessary. Mr. Jeremiah McVeigh, of London, was the only candidate, and he was declared duly elected.

Nuns as Nurses.

At a recent meeting of the Newry Board of Guardians Sister Mary Patrick Collins and Sister Mary Bionach Gallagher, of the Convent of Mercy, Newry, were appointed assistant nurses of the infirmary. Sister Mary Elizabeth Dignam, of Dundalk, having already been appointed head nurse.

DUBLIN.—Death of a Dean.

It was with deep regret that the people of Dublin of all creeds heard of the death of the Right Rev. Monsignor Walsh, P.P., Kingstown, Dean of the diocese, which took place at his residence, Eblana Lodge, after a short illness. Deceased, who was 70 years of age, was born in Dublin city, and having at an early age shown a vocation for the Church, he entered Maynooth, where he was ordained in 1856. He was subsequently appointed curate in SS. Michael and John's parish, and was next transferred to High street parish as Administrator, having been some 10 years a curate in the first-named parish. He was afterwards appointed Vicar-General, and in 1885 was transferred, as parish priest, to Kingstown after the death of the Right Rev. Monsignor Quinn. Dignities were then showered upon him, and he was appointed archdeacon of Dublin and Domestic Prelate to his Holiness the Pope. On the death of Dean Kennedy he was appointed Dean of the diocese. During his pastorate he was instrumental in having the Church of St. Michael, Kingstown, completed, and also the erection of a tower and spire, as well as the building of a new presbytery at Monkstown.

A Will.

The will of Mr. John McCall, Dublin, late editor of 'Old Moore's Almanac' has been valued at £4000, the bulk of which goes to his son, Mr. Patrick J. McCall, T.C.

LIMERICK.—Butter Standard.

At a meeting of the Guardians of the Newcastle-West Union, Mr. Thomas Hurley, J.P., presiding, a resolution was unanimously adopted stating that any standard fixed of under 20 per cent. of water in butter would be injurious to the butter-makers of the country; that over 20 per cent. of water should be punished severely, and that 16 per cent. be the standard for creamery and factory butter.

Coal Mines.

The Board of Agriculture, in compliance with resolutions emanating from the Glin Rural District Council and the Limerick County Council, have sent down to Glin two experts for the purpose of ascertaining whether coal exists in the neighborhood of the culm pits at Clogough, which 60 years ago were successfully worked by the then Knight of Glin. Three years since Messrs. Cassell and Gardener, Scotch mining experts, visited the locality, and satisfied themselves that anthracite coal was to be found in several places in the vicinity of the old culm workings. The report of the engineers from the department of agriculture is anxiously awaited by the people of the district and by the representative bodies in the county.

Intemperance.

Preaching on a Sunday recently in St. John's Cathedral, Limerick, in the presence of the Mayor and the members of the Corporation, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer referred in strong language to the sad prevalence of intemperance in the city, quoting police statistics in support of his remarks.

MAYO.—Imprisonment.

Mr. John Hayden, M.P., left the House of Commons on February 14 for Castlebar gaol, where he surrendered to the governor to undergo 21 days' imprisonment under the Coercion Act.

TIPPERARY.—The Game Laws

At Clonmel Petty Sessions Mr. Edmund de la Poer, son of Count de la Poer, was fined £5 for carrying a gun and using dogs in pursuit of game without a license.

WATERFORD.

About the middle of February there died at Ballyguiry, within a few miles of Dungarvan, County Waterford, a man named John Foley who had reached the age of 106 years. His remains were interred at Ballinacoola. He was a remarkably healthy man all through life, and never knew what it was to be sick. Up to the last he retained all his faculties, and died through sheer old age. And strange, in the same part of the county now there is alive and well a man named Devine, who is said to be at present 110 years. The district must be remarkably healthy, and it would not be easy to find in all the country a parish which could boast of two men so old as he who has just died and Devine who is still living.

WEXFORD.—An Appointment.

The many friends throughout the country of the Rev. Edward Aylward, P.P., Blackwater, learned with pleasure that the Bishop of Ferns promoted him to the vacant Canonry in the cathedral.

GENERAL

The Land Question.

Just before the Easter adjournment of the House of Commons, Mr. Wyndham introduced an Irish Land Bill, which was read a first time. It has created a favorable impression. It provides for setting aside three millions for the non-compulsory purchase of estates, the payment to be made in gold, the Government reselling the land to the tenants if three-fifths of them are willing to buy.

Religious Antipathies.

Political incidents often have grave moral results—sometimes for the worse, and occasionally for the better. It would be a happy outcome of Mr. T. W. Russell's campaign in Ulster (says the 'Catholic Times') if he blotted out the spirit of religious animosity in that province, and made all the men of the North good Irishmen and good Christians. Reviewing the East Down contest in the 'Morning Leader,' Mr. Russell says this was the first fight in which the wedding of Protestant and Catholic for a common end had been tried. These men have been glowering at each other through the mists of prejudice for centuries. They were now called upon to act together, and Mr. Russell was enabled to triumph because they did so. He states that Mr. Wood, his candidate, obtained the votes of about 2000 Catholic Nationalists and 1600 Presbyterian farmers. Mr. Russell, with his knowledge of Ulster political life, is aware that it is not the Catholics who have been responsible for the maintenance of religious antipathies. They have proved their freedom from prejudice by voting for Protestants time after time. Let us hope he will have such success amongst the Protestants as to induce them sooner or later to vote for a Catholic.

Irish in London.

It is of interest to learn from the London census returns recently published that the number of Irish-born people resident in the metropolis has declined by something like 14 per cent. during the past ten years, the total being now only a little over 60,000 as compared with 70,000 in