

markable way, instead of raising them. The estimates for County Kerry are a notable case in point. Kerry was regarded for a long time as one of the most lawless counties in Ireland, wholly given over to the domination of the extreme Nationalist faction and organisations. But in Kerry the estimates have been reduced from £73,701 in 1900, to £50,309 this year, while at the same time the public services and local administration generally are being efficiently and satisfactorily carried on. The evidence generally points to the entire success of the new system of local government throughout the country, and the complete failure of all prophecies of ill.

Temperance Veterans.

A movement has been initiated to have a foregathering of all those veterans in the cause of temperance who took the pledge (and kept it) from Father Mathew between the years 1839 and 1858. Not many there are who took the pledge in the first year of Father Mathew's great crusade who could meet now; but yet there are a few, including Mr. Benjamin Hughes, ex-Mayor of Wexford, the Nestor of Irish journalism, who took the pledge from the saintly Capuchin on April 8, 1840, and has faithfully kept it during 62 years. A social re-union of the original Mathewite teetotallers would surely be an interesting gathering.

A Curt Message.

During the tour of the Chairman of the Irish Party, Mr. P. A. M'Hugh, M. P., and Mr. Thomas O'Donnell, M. P., in the United States and Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier was on the platform, with other members of his Government, at a great meeting held by them in Ottawa. A London correspondent learns, on high authority from Canada, that Mr. Chamberlain cabled to Sir Wilfrid Laurier expressing surprise at his action and asking for an explanation. Sir Wilfrid Laurier he states, replied in a very curt message, inviting Mr. Chamberlain in effect to mind his own business. Mr. Chamberlain did not pursue the question any further.

Musical Instruction.

The annual report of Mr. Peter Goodman, Inspector of Musical Instruction to the Commissioners of National Education (says a Dublin exchange), shows satisfactory progress. Since singing became a class subject all the schools have adopted it, and the progress of the pupils is remarkable, considering that in 1899 only 1470 schools, out of 8700, under the Board had music as a subject for examination while only about 3000 out of the 12,000 teachers were registered as competent to teach it. Under the system organised by Mr. Goodman, an assistant was sent to a district for five weeks to direct the course of musical instruction and to hold evening classes for teachers within a district of seven miles. In the period from September to Christmas 1900, music was introduced into 100 schools in which it had not been taught before. In some of the village schools where a commencement had to be made the children had to be taught from the beginning. They showed great aptitude in singing in unison and in modulator work.

MYERS AND CO., Dentists, Octagon, corner of George street. They guarantee highest class work at moderate fees. Their artificial teeth give general satisfaction, and the fact of them supplying a temporary denture while the gums are healing does away with the inconvenience of being months without teeth. They manufacture a single artificial tooth for Ten Shillings, and sets equally moderate. The administration of nitrous oxide gas is also a great boon to those needing the extraction of a tooth. Read advertisement.—***

People

Dr. Saad, a physician who has lived many years in Palestine, has just written some curious facts about the efforts to convert Jews there to Protestantism. He says it takes 52 missionaries to make 12 Jewish converts a year.

It is not generally known that the 'Messiah' was first produced in Dublin under Handel's own direction, and that Handel spent nine months, from November 18, 1741, to August 12, 1742, in the Irish metropolis.

Mrs. Charles M. Schwab, the wife of the president of the United States Steel Corporation, takes great interest in studies that aim to find remedies for tuberculosis. She has displayed practical interest in the matter by the donation of the best microscopic outfit made in the world to the East End Charity Hospital, Pittsburg, Pa.

Major Patrick McMahon, son of late Marshal McMahon, President of France after the Franco-German war, has been promoted to a lieutenant-colonelcy in the French army. He is the husband of the Princess Marguerite de Orleans, daughter of the Duke de Chartres. He is not ashamed to acknowledge and bear the name Patrick, or that his people came from Monaghan.

The 'Zambesi Mission Record,' which is conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, says: 'As we go to press we hear with deep regret of Mr. Rhodes' death. We owe him a large debt of gratitude for the constant encouragement which he has given to our work in South Africa. In a future number we hope to render a more fitting tribute to his memory.'

Says a London Catholic weekly.—The pleasant side of Mr. Rhodes' character was his charity. In all good causes, difference of creed making no distinction. The Sisters of Nazareth have often informed us of his kindness to their houses, and other Catholic Sisters have likewise found him a helper. But hypocritical rogues who appealed to him found him quite a different man, and from these he got the reputation of tight fistedness, an opinion we do not share.

Sir W. H. Russell, LL.D., D.L., the Irishman who, as the representative of the London 'Times' during the Crimean campaign, became the greatest war correspondent that ever lived, celebrated his eighty-second birthday the other day. He represented the 'Times' not only in the Crimea but also at the siege of Lucknow, in the Italian campaign of 1859, in the American Civil War, in the Danish War of 1861, and at Koniggratz. He went through the Franco-German war, and was present at Soudan, saw Zululand and the Transvaal in fighting times in 1879-80, and was in Egypt in 1883-81. One of Russell's first achievements as a newspaper man was to carry to England, for the 'Times,' by special packet the result of the State trial of O'Connell. He beat his opponents, it is said, by two days.

The Rev. Peter O'Leary, of Castle Lyons, Cork, has written and the Irish Book Company has published a volume of arithmetical tables in Gaelic. The tables are complete, including addition, subtraction, multiplication and division tables, tables of weights and measures and moneys, avoirdupois, troy, apothecaries, linear, square and solid measure, and paper measure, the division of the circle of time, and a metrical translation of the old mnemonic 'Thirty days hath September.' In the compilation of the little book Father O'Leary has introduced quite a number of technicalities hitherto unknown in Gaelic, and he thus once

more demonstrates his own resourcefulness and the adaptability of the language to any formation of words expressive of any idea, no matter how abstruse or technical.

Senor Sagasta, the new Spanish Prime Minister, who has been called upon to steer the ship of State more often than perhaps even a Spaniard can remember at a moment's notice, is 75, and has made his way to the coveted 'banco azul' from the ranks. His father was a political exile and lived in a village near Logrono, where the boy was educated at the village school. Later on he qualified as a civil engineer, but chose to start life as a reporter of social events on a Madrid paper, and when the parliamentary reporter of the same paper was ill, young Sagasta took his place, and his first acquaintance with the House in which he was to become so distinguished a leader was from the reporters' gallery. His reports having attracted the attention of the editor, he was sent into the country to support a Liberal candidate, and returned to town as Deputy; his speeches having recommended him to the electors to such a degree that they chose him instead of the man whom he had been sent to support.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor celebrated his 53rd birthday not long ago, and the newspapers commented upon the fact that T. P.'s looks are at least a decade behind what one generally expects to see in the face and figure of a person of that age. Were the genial editor of 'M. A. P.' to go amidst a circle of discriminating folk, who did not know him by sight—which would not be an easy matter so well known is he in all parts of the country—and state his age as 40 he would be believed by them all. He would be believed by them all, dancing eyes, a chin not unlike that of a juvenile footballer, and a figure that, despite his wails of suffering from dyspepsia, might cause envy to rise in the breast of a man anxious to be at advantage in the eyes of a woman whom he would fain woo. His hair is abundant and coal-black, and his voice has about it that pleasant and persuasive ring that is so often to be found associated with minds that have not lived long enough to experience all the wrongs and disappointments that are still to be met with in this old workaday world.

You can make no mistake in buying an 'Excelsior' plough. Price: double furrow, £11 10s., three furrow, £16 10s. Any trial given. Morrow, Bassett and Co. sole agents in New Zealand.—***

Anyone who can drive a team can operate the 'Excelsior' plough. Morrow, Bassett and Co. sole agents in New Zealand.—***

The 'Excelsior' plough is 'Champion of the World.' On hillside, lea, swamp, tussock, or stubble it is equally at home. Morrow, Bassett and Co. sole agents in New Zealand.—***

A WORD OF WARNING.—There cannot, unfortunately, be the slightest doubt that that dreadful scourge, Consumption, has obtained a strong hold in New Zealand, and anything which will tend to counteract its terrible ravages should be welcomed as a boon and a blessing to mankind. A slight cold, neglected in its earlier stages, is frequently the precursor of phthisis, and many a valuable life could have been saved had an effectual remedy been applied before the disease had established itself in the system. Such a remedy is to be found in TUSSE-CURA, and the innumerable testimonials received by the inventor of this preparation, which has earned a world-wide reputation, prove conclusively that it is a certain cure for all pulmonary complaints.—***