

Irish News.

ANTRIM.—A Memorial.

In the cemetery attached to the old chapel, Newry, a massive cross of polished granite has been erected in memory of the late Most Rev. Dr. McGivern.

A Fortunate Fishmonger.

It is reported in Belfast that Mr. Peter O'Rourke, fishmonger, of Cromac street, Belfast, has received the startling—but to him extremely satisfactory—information that he is the heir to an immense fortune, the total amount of which is estimated to be 20,000,000dols. It appears that Mr. O'Rourke, who has been completely unconscious of the immense fortune awaiting him, was called upon by a gentleman from Georgia, U.S.A., whose mission was to trace the whereabouts of the heir or heirs to the fortune in question. In the year 1868 Mr. Page O'Rourke, a native of Dromahaire, County Leitrim, died at Chicago, leaving a sum of about 7,000,000dols, in addition to several properties which he owned in 'Porkopolis.' He left no will, but it is represented that there was a note in his diary indicating his intention that the vast wealth he had accumulated should go to his next of kin. Since his death, 34 years ago, the value of the estate has increased to some 20,000,000dols. As the result of searching inquiries, it has now been discovered that Mr. O'Rourke is entitled to become possessor of this extensive fortune.

CORK.—The County Council.

At the final meeting of the first County Council of Cork, Mr. J. J. Howard, the able and popular chairman, in the course of a farewell speech, recounted the results achieved by the Council. He said: 'Three short years ago a tremendous responsibility was thrown upon the people of the country. When the Local Government Act became law, and when the control of the fiscal affairs of the country was taken from the classes and transferred to the masses of the people of this country, great doubts were then expressed as to what the results of the change would bring, and some persons were buoyed up with the idea that the result would prove disastrous to the country. However, it is satisfactory to be able to state on this the finishing of the first term of the County Councils in Ireland that the transformation so brought about has proved in the most conclusive manner that the prophets for evil were all wrong, and, thank God, to-day we can proclaim in no uncertain manner that the results have clearly proved that the vast majority of the people of the country have proved themselves equal to the task, and it is an admitted fact that the County Councils and Rural District Councils of this country have proved themselves capable and efficient administrators. This is no mere idle or empty boast, for it had to be, and was admitted by the Government authorities who were responsible for looking after the County Councils in Ireland. You know yourselves what your responsibilities have been in the past. You know that every year close on a quarter of a million of the ratepayers' money of this country is passing through your hands. You have raised for agricultural and technical education throughout the country a sum of £8000, and you are only too familiar with the ways and means of this Department that has been frustrating and blocking the introduction of education into the country. Despite the heavy drain upon our administration it is satisfactory to be able to observe that the annual expenditure has not been on the increase, but rather, I am proud to state, on the decrease, as the following facts and figures will clearly show.—The amount levied

for General County Union and District charges for the first year ending 31st March, 1900, was £189,162; for the second year ending 31st March 1901, £157,726; for the third year ending 31st March, 1902, £150,180; for the fourth year ending 31st March, 1903, £149,925.

DERRY.

The death is reported of Mr. David R. Babington, solicitor, and secretary to the Derry County Council. The deceased gentleman, who was 49 years of age, had been secretary to the Grand Jury, and on the introduction of the Local Government Act, became secretary to the County Council. About 15 years ago Mr. Babington was stricken with paralysis, which deprived him of the power of his lower limbs, and the duties of secretaryship of the County Council had to be discharged largely by deputy.

DONEGAL.—Diocesan Chapter.

The new Diocesan Chapter of Raphoe has been appointed. Mgr. McFadden is Dean, and Mgr. McGlynn Archdeacon.

Complimentary.

At the final meeting of the Donegal County Council Captain Storey, addressing the Council, bore eloquent tribute to the work of the members during their years of office. He touched upon the difficulties which surrounded them at the beginning; and now, he said, a state of things existed in the county which could not be paralleled at any previous time. He complimented the chairman, Mr. McFadden, and bore testimony to the courtesy and generosity with which the minority at the Board had been always treated.

DOWN.—A Serious Fire.

On the morning of May 19 a fire which had disastrous consequences broke out in Mr. T. P. Willis's bakery premises, Newry. The damage was estimated at about £5000. About 30 hands were thrown out of employment.

GALWAY.—Kilemore Castle.

The Gothic Castle of Kilemore, which Mr. Mitchell Henry, ex-M.P., erected at a cost, it is said, of close on £500,000, is to be sold, also 13,000 acres of land, lakes, and rivers around it. Over 30 years ago when the late Canon Wilberforce joined the Catholic Church, he retired to the wilds of Connemara, and rented a small house on the Kilemore estate, belonging to the Blake family. On a visit to the Canon, Mr. Mitchell Henry became fascinated with the beauty of the estate and resolved to purchase it. He did so, and built the great pile now for sale.

KERRY.—The Killarney Disaster.

At a public meeting in Killarney a fund was inaugurated to relieve the families of the boatmen who were drowned through the recent sad accident on the lakes. £170 was subscribed. The sum included 25 guineas from Mr. Furness, who lost his mother, brother, and sister on the occasion.

KILDARE.

The Carmelite Order in Ireland has sustained a serious loss by the death of the Rev. James E. Davis, O.C.C., who died at the Carmelite Convent, Kildare, recently, in his 66th year. Father Davis was a man of national notice as a theologian, and was well known throughout Ireland by reason of the many missions and retreats which he had preached. A great part of his life was spent in Dublin, and he also served in the Carmelite Convents in Moat, Kinsale, and Kildare.

LEITRIM.—Satisfactory.

At the last meeting of the first Leitrim County Council, Mr. J. O'Donnell, J.P., presiding, said that the report of the finance committee was indeed very satisfactory. They had to their credit, after paying out

that day close on £10,000, the grand balance of £6477 0s 7d, and that was as good, if not better, than any county in Ireland. When the County Council came into office the Grand Jury handed over to them some £3000 odd, and, considering the fact that the County Council paid out about three times as much money as the Grand Jury did, he thought that their financial position, that day was splendid.

All about a Flag.

I believe (writes a Dublin correspondent) it is a commonly received fallacy in Great Britain that Ireland enjoys precisely the same laws as the sister country. Of course, every day in the week we have examples to the contrary, and one of the latest is that supplied by the Local Government Board in surcharging the Leitrim County Council because it purchased a green flag to fly over the County Council buildings. If the County Council had spent £800 on the purchase of a Union Jack instead of £8 on this green flag the Local Government would doubtless never have mentioned the extravagance. The County Councilors of Leitrim are responsible to the people who elected them and pay the rates which the councillors spend. Needless to say, they had no objections to the purchase of a flag, and if it cannot be paid for out of the rates, the Leitrim men are determined to have the honor of supplying it, and to raise the amount of the surcharge by public subscription.

LIMERICK.

Limerick (says an Irish exchange) is to be commended on its public spirit in the matter of providing dwellings for the workers. At a meeting held at the Limerick Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, May 6, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dwyer presiding, it was decided to form a Limerick Artisans' Dwellings Company, with a capital of £15,000. Nearly £9000 has been already subscribed. Lord Iveagh has subscribed £1000 towards the company. The noble example set by the City of the Violated Treaty, will, it is to be hoped, be speedily followed by other places in Ireland.

MAYO.—Searching for Arms.

A few weeks ago a Longford merchant, accompanied by a Westport friend, was driving to Connemara to visit a sick relative when he was pursued by two policemen from Westport, who, overtaking him, much to his surprise searched his car for arms. The search was fruitless and the constables returned homewards disappointed. Neither of the suspected gentlemen has been identified with any political movement, and the incident caused them considerable annoyance. It is stated that the police had received information that a case of arms recently arrived at Westport railway station and disappeared in some mysterious manner, but this explanation may be taken with the proverbial grain of salt.

A Wealthy Pauper.

While an old woman named Mary Rattigan, from the parish of Knock, now an inmate of the Claremorris Workhouse, was being attended in the infirmary, a large sum of money—something over £180 in gold and silver—was found concealed in old rags under her pillow.

MONAGHAN.

The Bank of England was some weeks ago the scene of an audacious robbery. Patrick Canlin, of Monaghan, went to London with the idea of coming to New Zealand. Arriving at Euston Station, he was accosted in a fine Irish brogue by a fellow-countryman, who, like Canlin, was off to the Antipodes. Consequently, for companionship sake they decided to chum in together. First they had breakfast. During this repast Canlin displayed his Bank of England notes as well as gold and the Ulster lad spoke of the large and prosperous