

Irish News

ANTRIM.—Municipal Ownership

At a recent meeting of the Finance Committee of the Belfast Corporation the estimates for the coming year were under discussion, and it was decided that there would be no increase in the rates. This, is, no doubt, due to the financial prosperity of the gas and electric fund, out of which the Corporation have actually drawn to the extent of about £18,000 or £19,000 in relief of the coming year's rates, while the same magnificent resources have afforded from £13,000 to £14,000 during the current year towards the payment of expenses which would otherwise have to be met out of the rates, thus necessitating no increase.

CLARE.—Libel Action

In the action of Mr. McInerney, an auctioneer, of Ennistymon, who complained that he was libelled by 'The Clareman' newspaper by publishing resolutions condemning him as a landgrabber, the jury gave the plaintiff £600 damages.

CORK.—Market Gardening

A syndicate has been formed in County Cork for the purpose of raising and cultivating vegetables, such as potatoes, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc., for the English markets in competition with the Channel Islands throughout the year.

DONEGAL.—A New Church

A new church is to be built at Kilcar, County Donegal, in the diocese of Raphoe, for the Rev. A. McNelis. The church is designed in the Hiberno-Romanesque style, and will afford accommodation for a congregation of 1500. It will consist of nave, aisles, two side chapels, chancel, sacristies, etc.

DUBLIN.—A Successful Newspaper

Under the able management of Mr. Thomas Sexton the 'Freeman's Journal' has become a very prosperous paper. When Mr. Sexton took charge of the business the prospects were anything but hopeful. Thanks to his judicious management the business is now on a very sound basis, and at the last half-yearly meeting a dividend of 11 per cent. per annum was declared.

Glasnevin Cemetery

When the consent of the family of the late Sir Charles Gavan Duffy was given that the remains should be taken to Ireland for interment it was felt by the people of Dublin that Glasnevin ought to be the last resting place of the deceased patriot. O'Connell, Parnell, and James Stephens, the Fenian Chief, are buried there. The body of a colleague of Duffy's in the young Ireland days, Terence Bellew MacManus, was brought all the way from San Francisco some 40 years ago to rest in Glasnevin. Thomas Davis is buried in Dublin, but in Mount Jerome, the Protestant cemetery. It is said that Sir Charles Gavan Duffy expressed a wish some years ago that his bones should mingle with the earth of the land he loved.

The Parliamentary Party

A meeting of the Irish Parliamentary Party was held on February 16 in the City Hall, Dublin. Mr. John E. Redmond was re-elected Sessional Chairman of the party. The officers and committees were also elected. A resolution in reference to the Land Conference was passed, as was also one expressing deep regret at the death of Sir Charles Gavan Duffy.

GALWAY.—The New Archbishop

Just a day or two before the last mail left it was reported in Dublin that the Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Bishop of Clonfert, had been appointed Archbishop of Tuam. The new Archbishop (says the 'Freeman's Journal') has already a long record of brilliant service to his credit. He was amongst the foremost of one of the most brilliant of the generations of students whom the National College has trained for the Irish Church. His contemporaries at Maynooth have always recognised him as a man intellectually equipped to be a leader in his time. For nearly 40 years after his ordination he gave up his great talents and his inexhaustible industry to the service of young Ireland in the schools. He was a great scholar and a great teacher. Those who sat beneath his chair at Athlone and at Maynooth remember with gratitude the teacher who not merely conveyed knowledge, but elicited and fostered mental growth and development. Three-and-twenty years ago he achieved at Maynooth the distinction of winning two vacant Chairs in a double concursus—the Chair of Rhetoric, or Classics, and a Chair of Theology. Two years later, on the foundation of the Royal University, he was chosen by the Senate for one of the First Fellowships, a position that he resigned when it was made apparent that the Senate would or could do no more for the encouragement of university studies at Maynooth—a work of prime importance to all the Irish nation—than bestow upon its staff a solitary Fellowship. When that able theologian and accomplished writer, Dr. Murray—the friend and counsellor of Duffy—passed away, Dr. Healy succeeded him as Prefect of the Dunboyne. But the new Prefect's gifts of intellect and character were too marked not to expose Maynooth to his loss through a summons to a higher place in the Church of Ireland. When the failing health of the venerable Dr. Duggan necessitated the se-

lection of a Coadjutor for the diocese of Clonfert, Dr. Healy was appointed, with rights of succession.

LIMERICK.—A Large Salmon.

About the middle of February Mr. F. Milburn, fishing on the Doonass Water, at Castleconnell, was fortunate in hooking and killing the largest salmon ever killed with rod and line on the Shannon. The spot where the fish was hooked is just above the famed falls of Doonass, and the lucky angler had some difficulty in preventing the fish escaping over the falls. The gentleman, however, stuck gamely to his rod, and eventually tired out this splendid salmon, bringing him close to the boat, where the fisherman safely gaffed and landed him. On being brought to the scales he was found to weigh 54lb, the measurements being—length 50 inches, girth 30 inches.

Land Purchase

The tenants on the Harnett estate, Knockbrack, have offered to purchase their holdings at 18 years' on the valuation, but it appears the tenants have refused to offer the same number of years on the rental, the terms demanded. In this respect the tenants are acting in the same manner as those on the Ellis estate, where the questions in dispute between the landlord and tenants ended satisfactorily a short time ago.

TYRONE.—A Centenarian

The death is announced at Coagh, County Tyrone, of Mrs. Margaret Simpson, a widow, aged 104 years.

WESTMEATH.—Accident on the Hunting Field.

Major F. H. French, who was terribly injured by the fall of his horse while hunting with the Westmeath Hounds near Mullingar, died on February 14.

GENERAL.

Still a Home Ruler.

Mr. Herbert Gladstone, addressing his constituents in West Leeds, said he was still a Home Ruler. Tory nostrums had been tried and failed. The stars in their courses were fighting for Home Rule and a practical scheme of autonomy for Ireland, and Ireland would not be satisfied without it.

Emigration

The number of emigrants who left Ireland during the quarter ended 31st December last was 7374 (3195 males and 4179 females), being 732 more than in the corresponding quarter of the year 1901, and 1867 over the average number for the fourth quarter of the ten years 1892-1901.

Increase of Cancer

Owing to reports which have been laid before the King as to the increase of deaths from cancer in Ireland, his Majesty has given special instructions that further inquiries should be made on the subject and the result reported to him at the earliest possible moment. It is stated that as compared with some years ago the number of deaths have increased threefold, and that the figures in 1902 are much in excess of those for 1901.

Industrial Conference

At a meeting of the general committee of the Irish Industrial Conference the report of the executive committee, together with the invitation form, was adopted. It is proposed to hold a Dublin Exhibition in connection with the Conference, and to consider the advisability of establishing an Institute of Commerce and Industry composed of representatives of the manufacturing and trading interests of the four provinces.

Captain Shawe-Taylor in Canada

A message from Ottawa states that Captain Shawe-Taylor, secretary of the Irish Land Conference, called on the Governor-General and Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Sir Wilfrid Laurier remarked that he considered the final settlement of the Irish Land Question on the lines of the recent conference would be a great boon to Ireland and the whole British Empire. His Government would support a resolution in the Dominion Parliament favoring the proposed Irish settlement.

Production of Honey

The quantity of honey produced in Ireland in 1901 was nearly double the average quantity for the preceding 10 years. It was 15.2 per cent. above the quantity for the year 1900, the returns for which showed an increase of 16.4 per cent. as compared with the quantity in 1899. The quantity of honey produced, according to the returns, was 718,218lb; of this 188,335lb were produced in the province of Leinster; 208,057lb in Munster; 197,757lb in Ulster, and 124,069lb in Connaught.

Irish Minerals

Many people do not realise that Ireland is particularly rich in marbles, as well as in building stone and materials generally. The Department of Agriculture has taken steps to place on view for a period of three months, at the Imperial Institute, the extensive collection of Irish minerals and building stones which formed one of the most interesting of its exhibits at the recent exhibition in Cork. The exhibit will include samples of the varied and excellent building materials and marbles of Ireland, and it is expected that the opportunity of examining these samples will be of advantage to those who are concerned in the many large building schemes now in progress in London and elsewhere in England. The excellence of the Irish granites, sandstones, and limestones, as well as of the red, green, and black marble