

Irish News

ANTRIM.—The Tourist Traffic

It is reported in Belfast that the Midland Railway Company will place a very extensive order with the Steel Company of Scotland for rails, etc., for a new cable tramway from Larne to Glenarm, a distance of 13 miles, in order to develop the tourist traffic along the County Antrim coast road between Larne, Cushendall, Ballycastle, Giant's Causeway, and Portrush. This, it is added, is one of the first results of the purchase by the Midland Company of the Belfast and Northern Counties system. Other schemes of a similar character are in contemplation, and it is more than probable that eventually the entire distance will be covered with electric railway.

The Linen Trade

The decline of the linen trade has been so much the subject of serious concern in Belfast manufacturing circles that active steps are about to be taken with a view to bringing the Ulster staple textile into more general use. Damasks and table linens generally hold their own. It is, however, hoped that the making of linen fabrics for ladies' costumes may receive an impetus, and with a view to this a great fancy ball is to be given shortly. All the costumes worn are to be of linen, and the various business houses are displaying goods suitable for the purpose. The function is to be called the Linen Ball, and will be on the lines of the Calico Balls held in England during the last century to stimulate the use of Manchester prints after a depression in that trade.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

The venerable pastor of Ballymacarret, Very Rev. John Macaulay, was a few weeks ago the recipient of a unique demonstration of their affection, appreciation, and esteem from his colleagues in the distinguished priesthood of Down and Connor. The graceful compliment paid to Father Macaulay marks the golden jubilee of his ordination. For 50 years he has been laboring in the exalted and holy office of the priesthood, and fulfilling with all fervor the sacred and responsible duties appertaining thereto. This admirable address from his colleagues in the priesthood sums up in brief, telling sentences the life work of the grand old 'soggarth aroon'—a noble type of the Irish priest of the past and the present. Fifty years Father Macaulay has spent in zealous labors in various parts of the diocese—in Belfast, Glenavy, Kircubbin, Loughgiel, and Ballymacarrett.

CLARE.—Mansion Destroyed

Tyredagh House, near Tulla, once the residence of the Gore family, but lately in the occupation of Mr. Martin Corry, Doonane, Tulla, was burned to the ground towards the end of February. Most of the furniture in the lower floors was saved, but in a more or less damaged condition. Mr. Corry, jun., who was seriously ill in bed, was removed with some difficulty. The house was completely gutted, and only the bare walls remain.

DUBLIN.—Discovery of Oil

Great interest has been aroused in Dublin by the discovery of what seems to be an oil-well. Close to the city there appears to be a steady flow of an oily liquid to the surface of the ground, and steps have been taken to test the commercial value of the produce, with a view to arranging for the development of an oil industry. Samples of the oil have been sent to London for expert test, and a most hopeful feeling prevails that a new Irish industry has been discovered. Anyone familiar with the country districts of Ireland is aware that in the roadside streams of trickling water often presents an oily appearance, and the Dublin discovery has led to the expression of opinion by scientists of standing, that Ireland gives a good deal of signs of being an oil-producing country. If this new find should prove real and extensive to any degree, it cannot fail to yield considerable profit, because America, which is the great oil-producing country, just now has a consumption that is practically equal to its own product.

Grievances

At a meeting of the Post Office employees in Dublin, the Lord Mayor presiding, resolutions were adopted 'protesting against the manner in which the claims of Irish postal officials are set aside by the constant appointment of officials from Scotland and England to vacant Postmasterships in Ireland,' and demanding, in conjunction with their brother officials throughout Great Britain and Ireland, a Parliamentary committee of Inquiry into the cause of discontent which pervaded the service.

GALWAY.—Proposed Terminal Port

The question of utilising the natural advantages of Galway as a terminal port for transatlantic shipping was again urged by a deputation which waited on the High Commissioner for Canada (Lord Strathcona) in London towards the end of February. A deputation, including all sorts of Galway men without distinction of politics—Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. William O'Malley, M.P., and Colonel Nolan, M.P., joined such Unionists as the Hon. G. Morris and Lord Stratheden, in pointing out to the Canadian Commissioner the advantages which Galway can boast as a terminal port. It is 369 miles nearer to Halifax than Liverpool, and 399 miles nearer to New York; to Boston it is nearer by 430 miles, and to Quebec, 394 miles than is the Mersey landing-stage.

Then, in the matter of shelter and depth, it also boasts singular advantages. Two hours rail (express train) connects Galway with Dublin, and a few hours more would connect Dublin with Holyhead and Crewe. The Commissioner received the deputation with a good deal of sympathy, and promised to place these views before his Government. In connection with the suggestion of the deputation it is interesting to recall the fact that some 40 years ago a line of mail packets ran from Galway to Boston and New York. The fleet consisted of five steamers, but the service, which was subsidised, was abandoned in 1863. Galway people still declare that the service never got a fair trial. The boats were certainly unfortunate. One ran on a rock, another took fire, and none of them kept time. But one steamer did perform the feat of arriving in America two days before the Great Eastern, which started level with it from Liverpool.

KILDARE.—The Lord Lieutenant Sympathetic

In reply to a deputation from the Kildare County Council in favor of legislation for the holding of the International Automobile Race in the Midland Counties of Ireland, his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant made a most sympathetic, practical, and interesting speech. He practically pledged the Government that should any difficulty be experienced, which he did not anticipate, of securing the required legislation by a private member's Bill, it would be made a Government measure, and so relieved from the veto of the blocker. To this end he urged that the unanimous feeling in favor of the race in the district where it is proposed to be run should be embodied in resolution and submitted to Mr. Wyndham.

MONAGHAN.—A Windfall

Mr. William Hawe, farmer, Ballybay, County Monaghan, has received the welcome intelligence that he is the sole heir-at-law to the late Mr. John Hawe, Mash-onaland, Southern Rhodesia, whose estate is valued at over £50,000. The intimation, which is genuine, was made to Mr. Hawe, who resides at Confinlough, a small village near the town of Ballybay, by Mr. Lucas Dickson Gray, J.P., Monaghan, who was requested by the South African Courts to make the necessary inquiries.

WEXFORD.—A Successful Student

A Dublin exchange directs attention to the successful scholastic career of a member of a distinguished Wexford family. Miss Mary K. Ryan is the second daughter of Mr. John Ryan, Timcoole House, Taghmon, and began her literary career at Loreto Abbey, Gorey, where she passed through the ordinary course with very creditable success. She matriculated in '98, in Loreto College, Stephen's Green, obtaining honors in English and French. The following year she did First Arts, securing first place in English and honors in French. In 1900 she was a candidate for Second Arts, and obtained high honors in English and French. Since then she has studied abroad for the B.A. degree, which she has just taken with first class honors, and a first class exhibition in Modern Literature, a brilliant finale to a very successful educational career. Miss Ryan has just been enjoying a few well-earned holidays at the ancestral home of the Ryan family, Timcoole House, Taghmon, and has now proceeded to Cambridge to compete for further distinctions. Her sister, Miss Josephine Ryan, B.A., gained high honors during her educational course, both in Dublin and Germany; and another sister, Miss Minnie Ryan, although very young, has already carried off some intermediate exhibitions, and will, in due course, secure the B.A. degree.

GENERAL

Lenten Pastorals

In his Lenten Pastoral Cardinal Logue touches upon the securing of religious education in elementary schools, commends the extension of the Anti-Treating League, gives a word of warning against the betting evil, and exhorts his flock to the proper observance of the Lord's Day. His Eminence concludes by reprehending the holding of political meetings on Sundays at the church doors. Archbishop Walsh reproves attendance at dancing clubs, warns his flock against gambling, condemns wakes, immodest representations in public places, the reading of infidel books and poetry, and, finally, the vending of irreligious publications or pictures of a demoralising tendency. The Bishop of Derry deals with intemperance and the dangers of infidelity. The Bishop of Cloyne touches on the land question, as does also the Bishop of Ross and the Bishop of Raphoe, who speaks out strongly on the drink evil. The Bishop of Down and Connor treats of education. The Bishop of Clogher and the Bishop of Dromore and the Archbishop of Cashel commend temperance, while the Bishop of Limerick contrasts the results of the Catholic and Protestant systems as shown in the solidarity of the Catholic Church, and the ever-increasing divisions of Protestantism.

Irish Poverty

A correspondent of the 'Manchester Guardian' sends that paper what it describes as a diagram of Irish poverty, compiled from the latest report of the Irish Registrar-General. The proportion of indoor to outdoor paupers, the correspondent points out, is much higher than in England and Wales, the numbers being 734 indoor to 1000 outdoor in Ireland, and 388 indoor to 1000 outdoor in England and Wales. The number of persons in receipt of relief varies much more from year to year in Ireland than in England, but there has been no downward tendency, it appears, in the amount of either indoor or outdoor pauperism during the period. The combined rate has averaged 22.3 per 1000 of the population