

Irish News

ANTRIM.—Loss of Life

A very sad affair, resulting in the loss of three lives, is reported from Ballycastle, Antrim. It appears that as a consequence of the fearful storm which swept over the district on the night of February 26 a landslip occurred at the limeworks' house in which the caretaker, James Butler, his wife, and child resided. Tons of debris crushed through the roof, carrying down the loft on top of the unfortunate inmates, who were killed on the spot.

ARMAGH.—Incendiarism

The splendid Catholic schools in the village of Derrytrasna, in the parish of Derrymacash, of which the Rev. Edward McCartan is the esteemed pastor, were destroyed by fire early in March. Conclusive proof was forthcoming that the fire was malicious. The damage is estimated at nearly £1000. The indignation of the Catholic people of the district, and indeed the entire county, is naturally deep and widespread, and they look to the police authorities to leave no stone unturned to bring to justice the perpetrators of this sectarian outrage, which is a very rare occurrence in the recent annals of the County Armagh.

CARLOW.—A Cross Destroyed

The most remarkable reminder of the late gale in Tullow is the absence of the cross on the spire of the Catholic church. It had been blown off during the night, and was found dashed to atoms at the base of the tower. It was viewed pathetically by the people. It had been designed by Augustine Pugin, and erected by Father Nolan, the late P.P., Abbeyfeix, during the episcopate of 'J.K.L.' It was, moreover, the first that raised its head after Catholic Emancipation. Naturally the people of Tullow were proud of its history, and lament its disappearance.

CAVAN.—Decline of Industries

At a recent meeting of the Council of Agriculture in Dublin, Mr. A. S. Lough, M.P., drew attention to the decline of industries in Cavan. In 1841, before the famine, the population of that county was 240,000; last year it was 97,000. The industrial population in 1841 was in Cavan especially actually larger than the agricultural population, and it was an extraordinary fact that while the towns had decreased very slightly in population the non-productive classes had actually increased. Again, in 1841 there were in Cavan 31,000 weavers and spinners, while in 1891 there were 32 individuals engaged in these industries. In the same period, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and similar small trades had decreased from 5213 to 1709. A rough estimate of the amount of money paid in Cavan in 1841 in connection with industries realised the figure £970,000 per annum. To-day the estimated earnings only reached £65,000. Emigration had deprived them of the best elements of the population, and those left behind were mentally, morally, and physically weaker and less efficient wealth-producing machines than those who had emigrated. The effect of all this was disastrous so far as Ireland is concerned. It was true there were some compensations for all these things. The homes of the people had been improved, but, perhaps, that was the only compensation they had left.

Sad Death of a Doctor

The tragic death is reported at Cavan of Dr. King Moore, a well-known Irish medical practitioner. At the inquest on the remains the evidence showed that death resulted from an overdose of morphia, taken to alleviate a severe attack of neuralgic face-ache.

CLARE.—Claim Reduced

At the Clare Assizes (before Mr. Justice Gibson) an appeal was brought by Edward Dalton, an ex-policeman, of Bodyke, against a decision of the County Court Judge, awarding him £20 compensation for malicious injury to a brood mare. He had claimed £60. His Lordship said that he objected to people making money out of the ratepayers, and he greatly disapproved of applicant putting in so high a claim for such an old mare. She would not sell at any fair, he knew, for £10, and he reduced the amount to £10.

CORK.—Tenement Houses Collapse

On the morning of March 5 two tenement houses, four storeys high, suddenly collapsed on George's Quay, Cork. Two lives were lost—an old lady named Donovan, 60 years of age, and her son John. The houses were occupied by about 90 people, mostly artisans and laboring men, and their families. Had the collapse occurred earlier the loss of life would have been very great. The houses are very old four-storeyed buildings in which nine families resided.

Tenants Reinstated

In view of the Land Purchase Bill recently introduced by the Government, it is worthy of special notice that some of the landlords of the Middleton district have seen the prudence of reinstating their evicted tenants. Early in March the cheering spectacle was witnessed of numbers of farmers ploughing up the land of an evicted tenant named Michael Hennessy, and also the extensive farm of another evicted tenant named Henry Hall, both of whom have been recently restored to their holdings as a result of successful negotiations carried on for them by the Rev. J. Dennehy, Ballymacoda, with the

agent of the property, which is situated at Ballymacoda, near Middleton, the landlord being Sir Edward Synge, Bart. Hall's holding contains about 115 acres, and was held before the eviction at a yearly rent of £137, one and a half year's rent being due. Under the settlement now effected an annual rent of £100 has been agreed upon pending the fixing of a fair rent, the notice of the Land Court to be issued by the tenant. In Hennessy's case the land comprises about 22 acres, held at the yearly rental of £17 2s. In lieu of the arrears due the landlord has agreed to accept one and a half year's rent, out of which a sum will be allocated by him for repairing the dwelling house on the land. Another tenant named Morrissey has been recently reinstated in his holding of land by the agent of his landlady, Mrs. Sadleir Jackson, the land being situated near Middleton.

DUBLIN.—An Institute of Commerce

A representative Conference, held in Dublin last week, resolved, on the motion of the Lord Mayor, to form an Institute of Commerce and Industry, representing the manufacturing and trading interests of the four provinces of Ireland, and also affirmed the desirableness of holding an international exhibition in the Phoenix Park in 1905. The proposal had the support of many leading people, and the circular calling the Conference was signed by the Lord Mayors of Belfast and Cork, by Sir J. Arnott, Mr. William Murphy, who are the treasurers of the Conference; and by the secretaries, Lord Castletown, Mr. M'Cann, M.P., Mr. W. F. Dennehy, and Mr. J. Simmons.

A Representative Convention

A National Convention, at which there were 2500 representatives present, was held in Dublin last week. Mr. J. E. Redmond, M.P., presided. Mr. William O'Brien moved the acceptance of the principal lines of the new Irish Land Bill, though both he and Mr. Redmond insisted that radical and sweeping amendments would be required. Mr. Patrick White, M.P. for Meath, moved an amendment in favor of an unconditional rejection of the Bill. The amendment found only one supporter. Mr. O'Brien's motion was carried unanimously with enthusiasm. The Convention strongly reaffirmed the principle of Home Rule, and recommended amendments in the details of the Irish Land Bill. It adopted a resolution expelling Major Jameson, M.P. for West Clare, and Jasper Tully, M.P. for Leitrim South, from the Irish Party.

Golden Jubilee

Mother Imelda Maher, of the Dominican Convent, Kingstown, celebrated her golden jubilee on February 16. The happy event was made the occasion of every manifestation of esteem and respect for this devout member of the community, whose life has been one of unceasing ardor and earnestness in the duties of her sacred calling. Many presents were received, and numerous friends, lay and clerical, came to wish her abundance of joy and happiness, and offer her congratulations on her completion of the long span of 50 years in community life. An entertainment given in the evening brought the joyful day to a close. It is only a short time since another member of the same family celebrated her golden jubilee also, Mother Bernard, Mercy Convent, Pittsburg, America. They are natives of Donore, Bagnalstown, County Carlow, and sisters of the late mother De Ricci, Cabra Convent, who was so well and favorably known, and whose influence in the cause of religion and education was felt far and wide.

A Successful Company

The report of the first general meeting of the Catholic Church Property Insurance Company, Limited, was highly satisfactory. The need for such a company and the sanguine anticipations of its projectors have been fully realised. It is a rare experience in a young company that a five per cent. dividend should be paid within the first year of its corporate existence, and its entire capital should be paid up, and that with capital intact, and after paying preliminary expenses and dividend a substantial amount should be carried to reserve. The company has the advantage of having on its directorate some of the most expert financiers in Ireland, and its continued success may be regarded as assured.

GALWAY.—The New Member

Mr. Charles R. Devlin, who, as the selected candidate of the United Irish League, has been returned for Galway, sat for eight years in the Canadian House of Commons. Mr. Devlin will be the third member of the Canadian House of Commons with a seat in the present Imperial Parliament. The Hon. Edward Blake had, as everyone knows, a long and brilliant career in the Canadian Parliament, where he was for 11 years leader of the Canadian Liberal Party, and General Laurie, C.B., the Tory member for the Pembroke boroughs, was a member of the Canadian House of Commons from 1887 till 1891.

The New Archbishop

On St. Patrick's Day his Grace the Most Rev. Dr. Healy made his public entry into Tuam, arriving there about 11 o'clock. It is almost unnecessary to say that the great old town put on its best attire. Every house was decorated, and words and mottos of welcome abounded on all sides. He was met some miles outside the town—even beyond its borders—by the multitude, anxious to give him the first cheer of welcome. The procession, in so far as it could be formal, consisted of the following contingents:—Boys of the Temperance Sodality, girls from the country schools, Children of Mary of the Presentation Convent, boarders of the Presenta-