

emigrants from Leinster, a decrease of 509 from Munster, an increase of 351 from Ulster, and an increase of 441 from Connaught.

The National Holiday

St. Patrick's Day of 1903 (says the 'Irish Weekly') was celebrated with a universality and an enthusiasm seldom if ever displayed in any previous year. The banquet at the Hotel Cecil, London, over which Mr. John Redmond, M.P., presided, was one of the notable political events of the day. By a happy coincidence Mr. O'Mara's excellent Bill declaring St. Patrick's Day a bank holiday in Ireland passed its second reading on March 17 in the House of Lords without opposition. In Dublin and through the greater part of Ireland that day, though not yet a legal bank holiday, was practically treated as such. All sects and all kinds of politicians agreed in honoring the day. The great majority of the business houses were closed, as was the Stock Exchange, and many of the public houses remained shut. In Limerick and Wexford, and other towns the public houses did not open at all. For the success of the endeavor to treat the observance of St. Patrick's Day as a truly National festival, great credit is due to the United Irish League and the Gaelic League. Under the auspices of those wide-spread organisations important meetings were held in different districts. Everywhere a patriotic anxiety was shown to make the 17th of March 'a great day for Ireland.'

The Land System

In the course of a speech at the National Liberal Club, London, on the Irish land question, Mr. T. W. Russell said: The present system could only be got rid of by offering an inducement to the landlords to sell. A bridge ought to be built by the State, but that was a hard doctrine for the British taxpayers, who had paid £250,000,000 for the millionaires of South Africa. There was an historical and moral obligation on England in this matter. Where did the Irish land system come from? It was not an Irish system, but an English system. England abolished the Irish land system, and there had never since been an hour of tranquility or peace. England not only introduced the system, but brought the men, planted them as its garrison, and they were permitted to call themselves the garrison; yet, although England had no further use for them—there was no function for them to perform—there was nothing for them to do but to march out, and if they could not march out with all the honors of war—bands playing and flags flying—England might decently provision them for the march. The British taxpayers' hands had been in the Irishman's pockets for a hundred years, and, added Mr. Russell, I hope we shall find more in your pockets than you have found in ours.

A West of Ireland Industry

It is only in a humorous sense that the carpets can be said to be beneath one's notice, for all who appreciate color must be aware, says the London 'Times,' that the floor of a room demands almost as much attention as the walls and ceiling. Their hue, color, and durability, but especially the former, have for a long time recommended Turkish and Persian carpets; but what would happen asked William Morris, if the East failed us, and if, as he feared, the East lost 'that last gift, the gift of the sense of harmonious color?' His conclusion was that, in that case, we should have to make our own carpets, and he proceeded, therefore, to master the business, and to set up his hand looms, first in one of his attics in Queen Square, then in his coach-house at Hammersmith, and finally at Merton Abbey. One other good quality at least his carpets had besides color. They were not mere mechanical productions but showed the individuality of the artist. The exhibition that is now open at the Grafton Galleries results from a laudable endeavor to extend this hand-made carpet industry to the West of Ireland, where a small central depot has already been established, and the manufacture is conducted on artistic principles. There can be no two opinions as to the beauty of the work here shown. In point of color it is more characteristic of the aesthetic West than of the gorgeous East; there is generally harmony rather than contrast, and often a pleasing use of different tones of the same color, in some cases with a design of Celtic origin. The texture is that of a good Turkish carpet. Any addition to the industries of so poor a country as the West of Ireland is praiseworthy. In the present instance the economic conditions seem, for once, actually favorable to the enterprise. Steam power and coal are not wanted, and the employment of power looms would rob these carpets of something of their charm. As things are, they are hand made and as their value comes mainly from simple industry, it must be mostly repaid in the shape of wages. It is hoped that before long an impetus may be given in Donegal, where the work is carried on to the production of wool, wool being the material used, and that many poor families will find occupation in the preparation of the wool as well as in the actual making of the carpets. Messrs. Morton, of Darvel, the promoters of the industry, will welcome all that patriotism or benevolence can do for it, but for its ultimate and permanent success they rely, not on the claims of the workers, but on the intrinsic merit of the work. There is no reason that we know of why their hopes should not be justified. It should be added that Messrs. Liberty are the organisers of the exhibition.

People We Hear About

President Roosevelt received a box of shamrocks from Mr. John Redmond, M.P., for St. Patrick's Day.

When the last mail left England Lady Weld (Sister Gertrude Dolores), widow of the late Sir Frederick Weld, K.C.M.G., was lying dangerously ill at the Benedictine Convent, Fort Augustus, Scotland.

The University of Notre Dame, Indiana, has conferred the Lactare medal upon Mr. Charles J. Bonaparte, descendant of Napoleon's brother, Jerome Bonaparte, of Baltimore, in acknowledgment of his services in behalf of the Catholic Church. It is the highest honor the University can bestow, and is annually presented to some distinguished member of the Catholic Church.

Rev. Father T. P. O'Keefe, chaplain of the 12th U.S. Cavalry, at present stationed at Fort Clark, Texas, has successfully passed an examination to practise law. Father O'Keefe has frequently had occasion to help his soldiers in a legal capacity before judge advocate courts, probate courts and otherwise, and has always done so without fee or reward. His formal admission to the Bar will still further enhance his usefulness by giving him a recognised standing before the courts.

The late Rev. William Gleeson, pastor of St. Anthony's Church, East Oakland, California, was well acquainted with 15 languages. He regularly received and read as a recreation periodicals not only in French, Spanish, Italian, German, and Portuguese, but in Hindostani and Arabic. In his early life as a priest he had labored 10 years in India, where he became familiar with certain languages of Asia, but when over 60 years of age he was studying Hebrew and Chaldee, and added to these the study of Irish.

In view of the interest aroused by the lectures of the Rev. Bernard Vaughan, S.J., the brother of Cardinal Vaughan, at Gardiner street, Dublin, says the 'Freeman's Journal,' it is interesting to know that the King, when Prince of Wales, once attended a series of discourses by Father Vaughan in London. He seems to have taken a great interest in them, and being unable to be present at the last lecture, as he had to leave London early in the day, he wrote Father Vaughan pointing out the fact and expressing his disappointment. Father Vaughan, however, got out of the difficulty by delivering his lecture twice that day; once early in the day, at which the King was present, and again later on at the usual time.

On Friday last the Right Hon. Mr. Seddon, who on that day completed his tenth year as Premier of the Colony, received numerous letters and telegrams of congratulation from all parts of New Zealand, and also from several places in Australia. It is just forty years since Mr. Seddon became an Australian colonist, having arrived in Victoria in 1863, and twenty-four years since he entered the New Zealand Parliament as member for Hokitika. He accepted office in the Ballance Ministry in January, 1891 as Minister of Mines. On the death of Mr. Ballance Mr. Seddon was chosen by the Liberal Party as leader, although it was contended at the time that Mr. Ballance favored Sir Robert Stout as his successor.

The 'Scientific American' in a recent number describes the new telescope of the Jesuit College at Montreal, Canada. This telescope, it appears, was built from the designs of Rev. Father Garias, by the members of the Jesuit College. The spherical mirror of this telescope is in point of size the third in North America, being excelled only by those of the Yerkes and Lick observatories. 'No little admiration is due,' says our esteemed contemporary, 'to the man who has not only designed the whole and constructed the principal parts of so intricate an instrument, but who has, moreover, with his own hand erected the machinery required for its production. The working gear was prepared under the supervision, and according to the directions, of Father Garias, who also designed all the parts and furnished the wooden models.'

The mental and physical activity of the late Mr. W. T. L. Travers up to the very time of his death was astonishing. His scientific studies embraced chemistry, geology, and the fauna and flora of the Colony. He contested one of the Wellington city seats a few years ago, and when he was twitted with his age he promptly challenged any of his opponents, the oldest of whom was not much more than half his age, to run to the top of Mount Cook. Needless to say the challenge was not accepted. It was during this campaign that he quitted an obstreperous individual in an audience he was addressing by stopping in his address, going into the hall and putting out the noisy interrupter. He had a very ready wit, and during the election campaign retorted to he declared himself in favor of the three-fifths majority in regard to the local option principle. Some one in the audience asked if he would not be prepared to trust the people. 'Well, you see,' promptly replied Mr. Travers, 'the people were trusted by Pilate, and they called out "Barabbas." There was a burst of applause, and the questioner was silent during the rest of the meeting.

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