

Irish News

CORK.—Street Preaching

The following letter from the Most Rev. Dr. O'Callaghan was read in all the Catholic churches in Cork on a recent Sunday:—It is well to remind the congregations at the Masses on Sunday next of the old law in Ireland, which has always been strictly enforced, forbidding Catholics to be present at religious meetings of other denominations, or to listen to sermons, and withdrawing from ordinary Confessors faculties to absolve in such cases. You are aware that religious meetings, intended for the edification and conversion to Protestantism of the Catholics of Cork, are held in our streets on Sundays, and not unfrequently in prominent places when large crowds are leaving our churches on their way to their homes. Our attention has been called to the fact by many, who are both pained and offended, and with whom we fully agree, that it is strange such things are allowed in a city like Cork. We Catholics certainly do not treat our Protestant fellow-citizens in like manner.

DUBLIN.—Irish Language Week

The procession through the streets of Dublin on Sunday, March 15 (writes a correspondent) to inaugurate what has come to be known as 'Irish Language Week,' assumed enormous proportions, while nothing could exceed the orderliness and sobriety of the vast throng that composed it, and of the large numbers of spectators. Two ideas underlie this annual demonstration, the first the propagation of the Irish language, and the second, the providing of a fund to carry on the work of the Gaelic League throughout the country. Both objects were benefited by Sunday's proceeding to an extent that could hardly have been hoped for. The most remarkable of the various sections which composed the procession were, after the language section, which needless to say, was the most imposing feature of all, those which represented education and temperance, of both of which the members of the Gaelic League are ardent propagandists. The Christian Brothers' pupils alone numbered 3000 in the educational contingent. The pupils of St. Patrick's Training College presented a fine appearance; so also did the students of the Catholic University Medical School, headed by Rev. Father Darlington, S.J., and the other professors. Nearly 1000 boys from the National schools of the city, headed by their teachers, also marched. The temperance section was headed by the boys of the Catholic Brigade, Church street, numbering 1500. The Father Mathew Hall furnished 800, the Rathmines Boys' Brigade 1000, St. Patrick's Total Abstinence League, Phibsborough 400, the Workmen's Club, York street, over 200, and so on with the many temperance societies which happily flourish in the city.

Forthcoming Motor Car Race

It is possible (writes a London correspondent) that there may be a change in the date fixed for the Gordon Bennett Cup race. July 9th was the date provisionally fixed some time ago, but July 2nd is now proposed, as it is said it would fit in better with the other automobile events which it is intended to hold in Ireland about that time. The officials of the Automobile Club are very busy just now making arrangements for the race, and have already secured a large number of rooms and hotel accommodation in Dublin and towns along the course. At no time during the competition will the contestants get more than 70 miles from Dublin, so that it is very easy for those who take their cars with them to make Dublin their base.

GALWAY.—St. Patrick's Day

Writing in the early part of March with reference to the proper observance of St. Patrick's Day the Most Rev. Dr. McCormack, Bishop of Galway, said:—To ensure its becoming celebration the 17th March should be regarded ecclesiastically and civilly as if it fell on Sunday. No fair or market should be permitted on that day, and houses licensed for the sale of liquor should be kept closed all the day long. It is thus the day is kept by our Irish brethren in the United States, and is it possible that the mother country of our Irish race is to continue to give a lower meed of honor to our National Apostle, while her scattered children of other hemispheres follow the programme of higher honor and more fitting type of celebration? The instinct of religious patriotism has been happily aroused and loyally proclaimed, but it is high time for Ireland to do her duty to our National Apostle.

LONGFORD.—Accident to a Member of Parliament

Mr. J. P. Farrell, M.P., was the victim of a serious accident which took place at the 'Longford Leader' office, Longford, about the middle of March. Mr. Farrell, who is the proprietor of the 'Leader,' had been supervising some repairs to a gas engine, when an explosion took place, with the result that he sustained severe injuries about the face, it being thought at the beginning that he had lost his eyesight. It was only a short time since Mr. Farrell came out of gaol, where he was imprisoned for a lengthy period under the Coercion Act. He was on the point of leaving for Scotland, where he had some St. Patrick's Day engagements to fulfil.

TYRONE.—Death of a Catholic Magistrate

The death is announced of Mr. Joseph Falls, J.P., Curlew House, Dungannon, who died on March 10 in his 73rd year. He was buried in Tullydonnell, Rock, and the funeral was attended by a numerous con-

tege of mourners drawn from all parts of the country. Mr. Falls was a magistrate, and was one of the first Catholics in his district to be elevated to the Bench. The district where he lived was intensely Orange, and party troubles were of frequent occurrence. Although for many years quite isolated as being the only Catholic magistrate on the Bench, and usually sitting among a concourse of Orange magnates, Mr. Falls never failed to show a staunch and sturdy concern for the rights of his co-religionists.

GENERAL

A Public Holiday

The Bill for making St. Patrick's Day a public holiday in Ireland, which was successfully piloted through the House of Commons by Mr. O'Mara, was taken charge of in the House of Lords by Earl Danraven, who had the satisfaction of seeing it read a second time on March 17.

T. P. O'Connor's Views

On his recent visit to Liverpool, Mr. T. P. O'Connor was entertained at luncheon at the Town Hall by the Conservative Lord Mayor, Mr. Rutherford, M.P. Mr. O'Connor evidently felt quite at home amongst the Conservatives and Liberals who assembled there to meet him. He spoke with all the facility of utterance for which he is distinguished, a speech which they understood and sympathised with, the hon. member deploring 'the misunderstandings' which divided Irishmen and Englishmen, and dwelling upon what Irishmen had done and would do for the British Empire and the great world-wide harmony of that Empire.

The United States Mission

The political mission of Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., in the United States continues to be attended with remarkable success. At a meeting held in Elmira, New York, lately, and addressed by Mr. Devlin, one of the principal speakers was a United States Senator, the Hon. J. S. Fessett. A subscription exceeding 1500 dollars in aid of the Irish Parliamentary Fund was raised at the meeting.

The Language Movement

The rate at which the Gaelic revival is progressing is shown by some official figures published at Dublin. Two years ago the Gaelic League administered funds amounting to about £1200. The total of its receipts in the current financial year is expected to be £10,000. Two years ago there were scarcely 200 branches of the League; now there are 500. In the same period the number of national schools giving tuition in Gaelic has increased from 113 to about 3000. The latter total is being added to almost daily. Last year the League sold 213,000 copies of books in Irish, and issued 40,000 pamphlets, and many books put on the market by the ordinary publishing houses obtained a large circulation. The League claims that the workers in the Gaelic cause, who are now recruited from all political and religious camps in Ireland, 'have preached most effectively against treating, drinking, gambling, against immorality and vulgarity in the theatre, music hall, and concert hall, and against vanity and vulgarity in literature.'

Mr. Redmond Praised

Speaking at a public luncheon in the Liverpool Town Hall the Conservative Lord Mayor of that city paid the following graceful tribute to the abilities of Mr. John Redmond, the Chairman of the Irish Parliamentary Party.—If Mr. Redmond had been able to accept his invitation he would have been additionally gratified, for Mr. Redmond was one of the ablest and most eloquent men in the House of Commons. He ventured to think that they were on the eve of very great developments of a most important and far-reaching character with regard to their sister isle. He was authorised by Mr. Redmond to state that it was not in any spirit of hostility or any unwillingness that he was unable to be with them, but simply because of engagements elsewhere made a long time ago, and which made it impossible for him to be at the Town Hall on that occasion. The Town Hall of Liverpool knew no politics, and should have no prejudices. In other places and other capacities they fought their battles, let them fight to the best of their skill and as gentlemen. There, at all events, the sword was in the scabbard, they met as friends to extend to the great men of any creed and any political shade of opinion a hearty welcome to the city, always remembering, as he thought every Chief Magistrate of Liverpool ought to remember, that he was the Chief Magistrate of that city, which included within its boundaries men of all shades of political opinion.

Depopulation of the Country

The emigration figures for 1902 show a considerable increase on those of the previous year. The total number of emigrants who left Ireland during the past year was 40,401, or 9.1 per thousand of the country's population as estimated in the middle of the year. These emigrants comprised 18,893 males, or 550 more than the previous year, and 21,508 females, a decrease of 19. Of these emigrants, 40,190 were natives of Ireland, and 211 not; and, in comparison with the figures of the previous year the number of emigrants natives of Ireland shows an increase of 557, and the number of those natives of other countries a decrease of 46. Of the native emigrants, 3694, or 3.2 per thousand of the province in 1901, were from Leinster; 15,872, or 14.7 per thousand, from Munster; 9,091, or 5.7 per thousand, from Ulster, and 11,533, or 17.8 per thousand, from Connaught—making a total equal to 9.0 per thousand of the native-born population of Ireland, and these figures, compared with those of 1901, show an increase of 294