

by the surrender of his land; and though it is stated that some Irish estates are held even until to-day by descendants of English favorites of Royalty to whom they were given because the owners of long ago declined to be shaved, it is understood that, generally speaking, the Irish landlord of that day preferred the razor to ruin. Despite that fact, however, this extraordinary statute remained in force for 200 years, not being repealed until the reign of Charles I.; and thus at last one injustice to Ireland in connection with the land question was removed before the treaty of peace executed between Lord Dunraven and Mr. William O'Brien; and expected to be in some degree ratified by Mr. George Wyndham.

Irish Minerals

A lecture on Irish mining industries was delivered recently at the Imperial Institute, London, by Mr. St. John Lyburn, who gave some interesting details as to the existence of coal in Ireland, the districts in which it was to be found, including Castlecomer, Coahland, Kanturk, Ballycastle, Arigna, etc. The coal found at the last-mentioned place has been used with the best results on the Cavan and Leitrim Railway. Iron ore was found throughout the country in the form of oxide, and bog iron ore, which was used for the purification of gas, was also found. Lead was found at Glendalough, Tullow, Oughterard, and other places, and there were various clays suitable for pottery and other purposes. Sand for glass-making was found at Mackish, County Donegal, and had been subjected to tests in furnaces, and ascertained to be suitable for flint-glass. Cement could be manufactured in Ireland, and there was no reason why it could not be made equal to the best London and Continental brands. Mr. Lyburn, in dealing with Irish marble, mentioned that the Prince of Wales, having visited the exhibition, had ordered several columns of the material. Ireland possessed valuable deposits of sandstone, slate, and valuable building materials, which could be developed by using the most modern apparatus and the best quarrying skill. She should be able to supply building materials far beyond her own needs. What was required was proper and systematic prospecting leading up to development upon rational lines. It was to the want of this regular work failure had been due in the past. Capital was needed for the exploitation of many operations in directions where there was a ready market. Mr. Lyburn showed a number of views of mining and quarrying operations and of experiments which had been made by the Department in glass and pottery making, and said that the fallacy that nothing could be made of Irish clay had at length been dispelled. The fact was, he said, that the clay would take a glaze which permitted excellent reproduction of the beautiful Della Robena ware.

Then and Now

During the debate on the second reading of the Irish Land Bill in the House of Commons one of the principal speakers delivered himself of the following strong opinions regarding the dual ownership of land in Ireland, and the consequent evils resulting therefrom: "In Ireland," said the speaker, "you have a system by which the landlord does not spend a shilling on his property. There is a sense of proprietary right on the side of the tenant, which is also fostered by many historic conditions, a sense of co-ownership which does not exist, and never has existed, in England. I can imagine no fault attaching to any land system which does not attach to the Irish system. It has got all the faults of peasant proprietary, of extreme landlordism, and of landlords who spend no money on their estates. The primary object of this measure is to substitute a good system of land tenure for the intolerable and absurd system which now prevails; to remove some of these intolerable absurdities, partly due to the evils handed down to us from ancient history, but particularly due to the well-meaning but erring attempts of England to cure these evils which have resulted in making Irish land laws a chaos and a by-word, which reflect the utmost discredit upon the powers of British Statesmanship." It was no Irish member of Parliament or Nationalist agitator who thus spoke (writes the London correspondent of the Melbourne "Advocate") but the present Tory Prime Minister, Mr. Arthur Balfour, former Chief Secretary for Ireland—the savage assailant of the Plan of Campaign and the ruler of Ireland who wired from Dublin Castle to the police authorities in the south of Ireland, "Don't hesitate to shoot" during the stirring times of the land struggle of 15 years ago. But Saul, too, is numbered among the prophets, and the above quotation testifies to the extent and thoroughness of his conversion.

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People We Hear About

Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, M.P., has resigned the post of General Secretary of the United Irish League of Great Britain; and the executive have appointed Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., to succeed him.

The London "Times" understands that at an early date Mr. Tim Healy, M.P., will be called to the English Bar by the Inns of Court, in which, under the old rules, he kept his four terms as a student for the Irish Bar.

When Mr. Murrough O'Brien, the Irish Land Commissioner, was referred to by Mr. T. M. Healy in the House of Commons recently as the descendant of the ancient Kings of Thomond, there was a disposition to laugh, but Mr. Healy (says the "Freeman's Journal") was perfectly correct, as the Inchiquin family, to which Mr. Murrough O'Brien belongs, comes from an ancestry of kings who included Brian Boru, Monarch of Ireland, and a line of kings who ruled in Thomond or Clare till the reign of Henry VIII. Murrough O'Brien, first Baron Inchiquin, usurped the principality of Thomond from his brother, the last King, and surrendered it to Henry VIII. at Greenwich in 1543, got it back with the title of Baron Inchiquin, and subsequently Earl of Thomond. He was the ancestor of the noble House of Inchiquin, to which William Smith O'Brien, the Irish rebel of 1848, also belonged. Lord Dunraven, as a Quin, belongs to a branch of the O'Brien family, and another offshoot produced the late Marshal MacMahon, Duc de Magenta.

Sir George and Lady Petre intend to spend the last three months of each summer at their ancestral home at Dunkenhall, England. To the people of the neighborhood they are comparative strangers, though Dunkenhall has been in the possession of the Petres since 1711. This circumstance is due to the fact that Sir George, who is now over 80 years of age, has spent the greater part of his life in the diplomatic service. Educated at Stonyhurst and Prior Park, Bath, he was attached to the Legation at Frankfurt when he was 24 years of age. He was subsequently removed to Hanover, Paris, The Hague, and Naples. In 1857 he was again at Paris, and two years later was appointed Secretary to the Legation at Hanover. He was *Chargé d'Affaires* there from 1860 to 1863, and from 1864 to 1865 at Copenhagen. Then he went to Brussels, Berlin, and Stuttgart, and in 1881 became Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Argentine Republic. In the following year he was appointed Minister to Paraguay, and in 1884 Minister to Portugal. He retired in 1893.

To be caricatured in "Vanity Fair," and to be the principal guest of the Vagabonds, the chief literary society of London, are now the hall marks of success and distinction. It is some years since Mr. T. P. O'Connor figured in "Vanity Fair," and quite recently he was the principal guest of the Vagabonds. The dinner was meant to honor Mr. O'Connor as now the greatest of living British journalists, and to celebrate the high character and the immediate and vast success of his new paper, "T.P.'s Weekly." The dinner took place in one of the largest banqueting halls of the Hotel Cecil. From two to three hundred ladies and gentlemen, including all the best known names among the younger generation of novelists, poets, and journalists, were present, and Mr. Pettridge, the famous short story writer, was in the chair. Mr. Silas Hocking, the well-known novelist, was one of the vice-chairmen. Mr. Pettridge spoke warmly of Mr. O'Connor's services to literature by his well-known reviews, and especially of the debt which the younger generation owed him for his prompt and generous encouragement of them. To Mr. O'Connor more than to any man, said Mr. Pettridge, was due the better tone of literary criticism in the journalism of to-day.

Professor Bryce in his book "Studies in Contemporary Biography," writing of Parnell, states that the Irish leader, at the great and painful crisis of his career, consulted Cecil Rhodes as to the best course to adopt, and was advised by the South African politician to retire for a time. Professor Bryce brings out clearly and succinctly how widely and almost diametrically Parnell's qualities and temperament differed from those that ordinarily characterise the Celtic individuality:— "He did not love speculation or the pursuit of abstract truth, nor had he a taste for literature, still less a delight in learning for its own sake. He had no grasp of constitutional questions. In his speeches all was dry, direct, and practical, without so much as a graceful phrase or a choice epithet. His only interests, outside politics, lay in mechanics and engineering, and in the development of the natural resources of his country. His pride was so strong that it almost extinguished vanity. Parnell did not appear to seek occasions for display, frequently neglecting those which other men would have chosen, seldom seeming to be elated by the applause of crowds, and treating the House of Commons with equal coolness, whether it cheered him or hooted at him. He cared nothing for any social compliments or attentions, rarely accepted an invitation to dinner, dressed with little care, and often in clothes whose style and color seemed unworthy of his position."

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