

rent collectible by the Land Commission under these Acts, and the arrears, are not classified and abstracted up to the date mentioned in the Question; but it will be seen from the Annual Report of the Land Commission for the year ended March 31 last that during that year a sum of £2,658,550 was collectible in purchase annuities and £1,212,591 as interest in lieu of rent in pending sales, and that the arrears on July 1 last in respect of these sums were only £12,499 and £11,638 respectively. These arrears have since been considerably reduced.

THE LORD LIEUTENANT'S DEPARTURE.

The demonstration organised by the Dublin Citizens' Committee in honor of the Marquis and Marchioness of Aberdeen and Tenna on the eve of their official departure was a remarkable expression of the esteem and even affection which their Excellencies' devotion to Ireland has inspired among the people of Ireland. A great public meeting, at which the Lord Mayor presided, was held in the Mansion House. For more than an hour before the opening of the proceedings crowds began to arrive at Dawson street, and those furnished with the requisite tickets of admission proceeded to take their places in the historic meeting room. The gallery, which was unreserved, was soon crowded, and before their Excellencies arrived the body of the Round Room was occupied by a distinguished and enthusiastic assemblage.

The public farewell accorded to their Excellencies on their departure from Dublin Castle on February 15 was a very striking tribute to their popularity. The citizens of Dublin had the opportunity of adding their expression of regret to the widespread feeling of sorrow which the parting with their Excellencies had evoked. It was originally arranged that the official departure should take place on Saturday, but the utterly miserable weather of the whole of that day caused the ceremonial to be adjourned, mainly because their Excellencies didn't wish that the citizens wishing to take part in the farewell demonstration should be exposed to the discomfort of waiting for a considerable time in the incessant downpour. The alteration brought a most pleasing change in the matter of weather. Brilliant spring sunshine prevailed during the day, and under these brighter conditions the adieux extended to their Excellencies found touching and appropriate expression in a demonstration which was very impressive. It typified and evidenced how deep is the admiration which manifold endeavours on behalf of the people's welfare, and more particularly the poor, have begotten in the hearts of those to whom the name of Lord Aberdeen, and greater still, that of Lady Aberdeen, will always remain as a synonym for the highest striving after social and charitable betterment.

Waikanae

April 10.

Mrs. S. Tayler, postmistress at Waikanae, has received from Colonel Charles B. Harton, on behalf of the officers and men of P. and T. Corps, a letter of appreciation, also gifts for the many courtesies and prompt attention rendered by Mrs. Tayler and her assistant, Miss Paddon, during the recent camp held at Waikanae. Such spontaneous recognition is very much appreciated by Mrs. Tayler and her staff.

As late as 1784 Cowper, in describing the change which was then taking place in the manners and customs of all classes, mentions the umbrella in such a way as to show that, although its use was becoming much more general, yet its adoption by the lower classes was still sufficiently novel to call for comment. Though the umbrella was not adopted by gentlemen during daylight until almost the end of the eighteenth century there appears to have been previously a kind of transition period, during which an umbrella was kept at many coffee houses for the use of fashionable or effeminate men when the night was a wet one.

People We Hear About

Among the British officers recommended for distinguished conduct on the field in Sir John French's official list published about the middle of February was the Right Rev. Mgr. Bickerstaffe-Drew, one of the principal Catholic chaplains at the front, who is well known to the reading public by his pen-name, John Ayscough.

Lady Dorothy Feilding, daughter of the Earl of Denbigh, is doing active and useful work at the front with the Munroe Flying Ambulance, and has been honored by King Albert with the Order of Leopold, the highest Belgian decoration. The ambulance moves quickly from point to point as required, and its designation does not indicate that Lady Feilding is an aeronaut.

Captain William D. R. Kenny, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, attached to the Egyptian Army, has been appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Sultan of Egypt. Born thirty-three years ago, the son of Mr. Justice Kenny, this new A.D.C. to the new Sultan was educated at the Oratory School; and he married, in 1913, Alexandra, daughter of the late Nicholas Mouravieff, Russia's Ambassador at Rome.

Lord and Lady Denbigh, one of whose daughters was married during the second week in February, have a family of ten children, including seven daughters. At an audience with the late Pope, Lady Denbigh produced a photograph of her whole family, grouped according to size, and asked his Holiness's blessing on them. Pope Pius wrote with his own hand a verse from Psalm cxxvii. at the foot of the photograph, and added his autograph, expressing the pleasure it gave him to see the portrait of this fine family of Catholics growing up, as he trusted, to serve God and His Church.

A writer in the *Catholic Universe* of Toledo, Ohio, says:—One of our sweetest, sincerest Catholic singers is Denis A. McCarthy, of Boston. This poet was born in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary, Ireland, and was given his first education at the Christian Brothers' School. At the age of fifteen he landed in Boston, and since has been in or near that hub of American literature and made it his scene of labor. Mr. McCarthy has published two books of poems which have brought great credit to him. They are none of your 'wishy-washy,' sickly, sentimental trash; they are not involved, unconstruable trailings of sweet-sounding words. Mr. McCarthy's verse is essentially meaningful, religious, Catholic, and musical.

The following story of Santley, the famous singer, is worth telling. Mr. Santley, who had not then attained to fame, was travelling through a mountainous district in Mexico, when his party was suddenly attacked by a horde of half-bred bandits, who roughly demanded their valuables, and threatened, as an alternative, to take them up into the hills and torture them until a ransom should be forthcoming. At the first alarm the guards who had accompanied Santley and his friends fled. They were conducted through devious pathways for miles, until they arrived at a rock cave high up among the hills, where they were forcibly robbed of their money and valuables, including the best of their clothing. Over their rude supper that memorable night, Santley sang an aria as he had never sung before. His voice was then much lighter in tone than it is to-day. As the song rippled forth on the clear mountain air, the dusky Mexican faces lighted up with pleasure, and at its close the leader expressed his delight, and asked the senior to sing again. Santley saw his chance, and seized it. He asked, through his servant, if he might sing for his liberty, and a reluctant consent was given. For two hours that night he charmed his captors with a lengthy programme of exquisite melodies. The next day the party were taken down the mountain-side and set at liberty, to their great relief and delight.

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