

Irish News

ANTRIM—A Lady Chairman

Miss Hamilton, of Portrush, has been elected chairman of the Portrush Urban Council, a position which makes her ex officio a Justice of the Peace.

ARMAGH—More Centenarians

The death has just taken place, at her brother's residence, Ballymacully, County Armagh, of Miss Ann Walker, at the age of 102 years. The deceased's mother was also a centenarian, having attained the age of 103 years.

DERRY—No Irish Need Apply

A somewhat lively debate took place at the meeting of the Derry Board of Guardians the other day on the point as to whether an order for a horse ambulance should be placed with an English firm before tenders were sought in any part of Ireland. A committee of five had recommended that the English article be got, and after discussion it was decided by 12 votes to 6 to have the ambulance built in Lancashire. No opportunity was given to Irish firms to tender.

DUBLIN—A Pleasing Incident

The death of Rev. Thomas Long, for many years Protestant rector of St. Michan's Church, Dublin, where lie the bodies of the brothers Sheares, Oliver Bond, Rev. William Jackson, and many others whose names are celebrated in relation to the United Irish Movement, recalls to mind that he officiated at the funeral of Mr. Parnell, first in St. Michan's Church and afterwards at Glasnevin. The *Irish Times* in an obituary notice states correctly that on Mr. Long's retirement from the position of Protestant chaplain of the North Dublin Union Workhouse the Board of Guardians, an almost exclusive Catholic body, voted him a liberal superannuation pension, which the Local Government Board refused to sanction on the statutory ground that he did not give his whole time to the duties of the office. 'The incident,' says the *Times*, 'was a pleasant proof of his cordial relations with his Catholic fellow-citizens.' The paper refrains from reminding its readers of the sequel of this incident. A Bill was introduced by Mr. Nannetti, with the approval of the Irish Party, to remove the statutory provision which was a bar to Mr. Long's superannuation allowance. That Bill was blocked night after night and eventually killed in the House of Commons by Sir F. Banbury, an English Tory.

KILDARE—A Long Tenure of Office

At the annual meeting of the Athy Urban District Council, Mr. Thomas Plewman, J.P., P.L.G., referred to his recent election as a member of the Council, and said he felt deeply grateful for the compliment paid him by the electors. The number of contests he had been through during the forty-five years he had been a member of the Board he could not, he said, enumerate. His new tenure of office was for a period of three years, and if he was spared to complete that term he would nearly have completed his half-century of service at the Council Board.

KING'S COUNTY—Substantial Damages

On February 20 in Nisi Prius Court, Dublin, before Mr. Justice Kenny and a city special jury, the hearing of the action of Clarke v. the Great Southern and Western Railway Company was resumed. The plaintiff, Miss Agnes Clarke, aged seventeen years, a monitress in the Birr National School, was a passenger in the train which was in collision with another between Roscrea and Birr on July 19 last, and she sued the Railway Company, through her father, Mr. Patrick Clarke, who is a commercial traveller, to recover £2500 damages for injuries alleged to have been sustained through the negligence of the defendant company. The defendant company admitted negligence, but denied they were under any liability to the plaintiff in respect thereof; and also that any pain, disablement, or loss had been caused to the plaintiff. At the sitting of the Court, Mr. Justice Kenny summed up. The jury found for the plaintiff, and awarded £2000 damages.

MAYO—The Late Bishop of Achonry

The obsequies of the Right Rev. Dr. Lyster, Bishop of Achonry, took place in the Cathedral, Ballaghaderreen. The Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam, presided, and the panegyric was preached by the Right Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin. A letter of sympathy was received from his Eminence Cardinal Logue, who wrote:—'By his death not only the diocese of Achonry, but the whole Irish Church has sustained a great loss.' London, where Bishop Lyster died, was the scene of his earliest missionary labors, and there, as wherever he ministered, he won the esteem of everyone with whom he came into contact by his zeal and unselfishness in the discharge of his sacred duties. 'In latter life his Lordship recalled with interest (says the London correspondent of the *Freeman*) his experiences in these early days, though not all of them could be described as pleasant. On one occasion he was the hero of an adventure as thrilling as anything to be found in the pages of romance. The young priest was summoned late at night on a sick call; his way lay

along the banks of a canal, and when he had proceeded some distance he was attacked by two burly ruffians who, despite his stout resistance, robbed him of everything except his rosary beads, which he grasped tightly in his hand. They even took the coat from his back, and then, apparently fearing pursuit, they pushed their victim into the canal. Here Father Lyster struggled for a time, his strength gradually failing. The smooth walls of the canal greatly increased his difficulties, but finally, perceiving through the darkness what he thought to be a wooden projection, he grabbed desperately at it. He failed to grasp it, but the rosary became encircled on the timber, and being a particularly strong one, it enabled the young priest to support himself until his shouts brought a watchman to his assistance. Drenched and coatless though he was, he then, with characteristic devotion to duty, proceeded on his errand of mercy. It was also characteristic of the deceased prelate that it was only a few years ago that the members of his family heard of the incident for the first time. In the diocese of Achonry he filled important positions with great credit to himself, until in 1888 he was consecrated Bishop. Since then he was widely known for his tireless energy, and was always ready to respond to the call of charity. An eloquent preacher, he was well known not only in his own land but also in England and Scotland, where his impressive sermons thrilled large congregations.

MEATH—The Hill of Tara

Part of the Hill of Tara, comprising 240 acres, was sold by auction in Dublin recently. Bidding commenced at £2000 and ascended to £4710, at which price the farm was knocked down to Mr. V. J. MacDermott, Dunshanglin.

TYRONE—Omagh and Toleration

Scenes of much animation were witnessed at the annual meeting of the Omagh Urban Council, held for the purpose of electing officers for the year. The Unionists obtained a majority of one on the new Council at the recent urban election. Mr. Thomas Johnston was elected chairman, and Mr. King Houston vice-chairman, both being Unionists. In the election of committees the Nationalists protested strongly against the high-handed action of the Unionists putting forward nominations of Unionists far in excess of their proportion in the Council; for instance, on the Finance Committee their proposal was practically seven Unionists as against three Nationalists. The Unionist proposals were carried.

WESTMEATH—Verdict Affirmed

On February 20, in the King's Bench Division, Dublin, before the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Madden, and Mr. Justice Wright, in the case of Flynn v. Great Southern and Western Railway Company, an application was made on behalf of the defendants, the Great Southern and Western Railway Company, for an order that the verdict and judgment for the plaintiff at the trial of the action for £1100 be set aside, and that a new trial be ordered on the ground that the damages were excessive and that the amount thereof was such as could not reasonably be justified, and that same bore no just proportion to the injuries complained of, and that the verdict was perverse, and that damages were given for income past and prospective. The action was brought by the Rev. Patrick Flynn, of the Presbytery, Glasson, Athlone, County Westmeath, claiming damages for injury to the plaintiff while a passenger in defendants' railway by the negligence of defendants' servants. It occurred in what is known as the Roscrea collision in July last. The Court unanimously refused the application, with costs.

GENERAL

Old Age Pensions

In the annual report of the standing committee of the United Irish League the following reference was made to the Old Age Pensions Act:—The Old Age Pensions Act has been one of the greatest boons ever conferred on Ireland. The effect of the distribution of 2½ millions a year in Ireland amongst the aged poor of over seventy years of age has been most beneficent, and has been felt in many directions. It has brought joy to the lives of hundreds of thousands of the poor people and their families, and has resulted in a great gain to the shopkeepers in the various districts. It is but natural to expect that there should be some difficulty and a little harshness in connection with the administration of the Act, and these the Irish Party has done everything possible to surmount and mitigate. The questions as to the basis of valuation in the case of small tenants and as to what is evidence in regard to age have not yet been satisfactorily settled, but the Irish Party may be trusted to see that they are solved in a manner satisfactory to all concerned. The extension of the Act on January 1 to those in receipt of Poor Law Relief has been a decided gain to the local rates in most parts of the country; but, in spite of the explicit statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the local rates would have to be contributory to this part of the scheme, there is a decided feeling in many parts of Ireland that the Treasury ought to bear the whole expenses of these pensions.

Prosperous Institution

Sir Stanley Harrington presided at the half-yearly meeting of the Munster and Leinster Bank, in Cork. The