

Irish News

ANTRIM—Export of Linen

Mr. A. C. Pim, president of the Linen Merchants' Association, at the annual meeting emphatically repudiated, as regarded the linen trade in general, the accusation of 'sweating' which had been made against it in the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health. If sweating existed, said Mr. Pim, the Association would gladly assist in exposing it, as it was against their own interests that it should exist. Mr. Pim further said that they could congratulate themselves upon a year of continued prosperity, and Mr. R. E. Headman said that it was remarkable that in 1909 Ireland exported £12,000,000 worth of linen.

The Irish Trade Mark

The Earl of Carrick, at the annual meeting of the Belfast Industrial Association, referred to the work done by the 'Department' in the detection and punishing of frauds in connection with Irish produce in Britain. He had no hesitation in saying that in the more populous districts in England out of every eight eggs sold as Irish seven were foreign. The Earl added that the value of the Irish trade mark had not been realised by the Irish people to its proper extent.

DOWN—A Windfall

An appeal has been dismissed at San Diego, California, in reference to the estate, valued at £50,000, of the late George McGurck, and, as a consequence, the estate now passes to deceased's half-brother and half-sister, Mr. M. McGurck and Miss Elizabeth McGurck, of Clohogue, near Newry, who are declared the lawful heirs.

Some Notable Houses

It is mentioned in some of the English papers (says the Melbourne *Advocate*) that the syndicate who own Thomas Carlyle's house in Chelsea are about to purchase another house in which the 'sage' dwelt in the long ago. This suggests that something ought to be done in the Irish capital to secure to the city the ownership in some of the Dublin houses where celebrated men lived, were born, or died. It is true that there are tablets on many of those places, but, usually, those plates are erected by the courtesy of the owner or occupier of the property. Some of the interesting houses referred to are now pretty old, and may at any time be pulled down by the utilitarian investor, who has little sentiment but for commercial enterprise and bank treasure. For example, the house in Pitt street in which Balfe, the composer of 'The Bohemian Girl,' was born, appears to be what is called a 'tenement' house—that is to say, a house where each room or pairs of rooms are let to an individual or a family, and, for convenience sake, the front door is left always open. This is frequently the ultimate fate of a large house that was once the home of a well-to-do, perhaps wealthy, family. But there are many houses in Dublin, notable as birth-places and death-places and residences, that are not even marked by a tablet. For example, the house in which Mrs. Hemans, the poetess, died—close to St. Stephen's Green—is not so identified; nor is the house in Merrion square in which Lady Wilde, the poetess, had her home for so many years, so marked. Not even Daniel O'Connell's house in the same square is indicated. But the subject is a big one, upon which a good-sized booklet might be written. The work of the Carlyle syndicate ought to set Dublin men a-thinking about permanently securing the notable houses in their own city.

DUBLIN—Of Irish Workmanship

The King's 'Acorn Coach,' which has been burnt in a fire at a Notting Hill coachbuilders, was one of those intended for use at the Coronation. It was so old that the date of its construction is uncertain, but it was probably built two hundred years ago in Dublin. It weighed nearly three tons, and was mostly of English ash. It was very valuable as a specimen of fine handiwork and as an antique.

GALWAY—The Cathedral Fund

Over £23,000 have now been subscribed for the Galway Diocesan College and Cathedral Fund.

Substantial Damages

Mr. W. Whelan, of Portunna, has been awarded £500 damages against the Galway County Council for personal injuries alleged to have been sustained through stumbling over a mud-heap lying on the roadway. Several of his ribs had been broken, and his spine was permanently injured.

KERRY—The Royal Visit

At a recent meeting of the Killarney Urban District Council Mr. Hurley referred to the approaching Royal visit to Ireland and suggested that the Council should express to the King and Queen their desire that Killarney might be included in the tour. The suggestion was adopted, and the clerk was instructed to communicate with the King's Private Secretary. Mr. M. Healy, Town Clerk, subsequently received the following telegram:—'Windsor Castle, January 28, 1911. The King and Queen have received with much gratification the kind message which you

forwarded on behalf of the Killarney Urban District Council. Their Majesties regret that the time will not admit of their visit to Ireland in July next being extended beyond Dublin. Please express to the Council the sincere thanks of the King and Queen for their loyal assurances.—Arthur Bigge.'

LOUTH—The Election Petition

Not for many years (writes a Dublin correspondent) has any legal trial in Ireland attracted so much public attention as that of the North Louth Election Petition against the return of Mr. Richard Hazleton, who defeated Mr. T. M. Healy at the General Election. The courthouse in Dundalk has been thronged daily with ladies and gentlemen, some of whom provide themselves with luncheons so as to retain their seats and thus miss none of the proceedings. On February 10 a sensational development took place, when at the opening of the court Sergeant Moriarty, counsel for the respondent, announced that in view of the fact that cases of bribery had been admitted on the previous day, it would be useless to further contest the petition, and he was willing to submit to an order declaring the election void. This summary way of ending the proceedings was opposed by counsel for the petitioners, who urged that the entire case should be gone into. The court decided to hear further evidence on behalf of the petitioners, and the trial proceeded at a cost, according to Sergeant Moriarty, of £400 per day. Mr. Healy, K.C., entered the witness box, and his direct examination and cross-examination were followed by a large audience with almost breathless attention. Some humorous incidents enlivened the proceedings during the hearing of the petition. For instance, when a witness was asked by Mr. A. M. Sullivan, K.C., if he had got a drink out of a motor-car which was occupied by Mr. Cullinane, M.P., and other supporters of Mr. Hazleton, he said most emphatically that he had not. Counsel then asked if he had got a drink out of a tumbler, and the witness replied without hesitation that he had. The court laughed heartily, and Mr. Justice Gibson declared he had rarely or never heard a better joke.

MAYO—The Diocese of Achonry

A meeting of the parish priests of the diocese of Achonry was held on February 13 with the object of selecting three names to be submitted to the Holy See in connection with the appointment of a Bishop in succession to the late Right Rev. Dr. Lyster. The Very Rev. Dean Morrisroe, of Maynooth College, was first on the list with sixteen votes; Very Rev. Dean Conington, P.P., and Very Rev. M. Kevency, P.P., getting one vote each.

Declines to Levy Rate

The Mayo County Council has decided to levy no rate in aid of Galway University College until such time as provision is made in it for the talented children of poor parents.

SLIGO—Compulsory Purchase

The Chief Secretary for Ireland made a statement of very great importance in answer to a question by Mr. Scanlan lately. As is well known in the West, great dissatisfaction prevails in County Sligo owing to the failure of the Congested Districts Board to acquire unoccupied lands and grazing ranches suitable for the relief of congestion. Mr. Birrell has now informed Mr. Scanlan that the delay has arisen owing to the difficulty of bringing negotiations for voluntary purchase to a successful issue. Steps are now being taken, however, to make final offers for voluntary purchase in this and other counties, and if these offers are not accepted, the Board will put in force its compulsory powers under the Act of 1909. This announcement will be received with gratification in the West, and it is to be hoped that the Board will lose no time in carrying its understanding into operation.

TIPPERARY—Mourning in Thurles

At all the Masses in Thurles Cathedral on Sunday, February 12, touching references were made to the death of the Most Rev. Dr. Ryan, of Philadelphia, who was such a distinguished Irishman. He had been born in their midst, and in his early youth had attended the Christian Brothers' Schools in Thurles. They therefore mourned him as a Thurles man, as well as a great Churchman. There are many people in Thurles who remembered Dr. Ryan as a boy attending the Brothers' schools. When in Ireland some years ago he paid a visit to Thurles and to the schools where he spent so many days in his boyhood, addressing the pupils and exhorting them to persevere in their studies and attend to the admonitions of their teachers. On the same occasion he addressed a public meeting of the townspeople from the steps of the Cathedral, in which he referred to his early associations. He also referred in touching terms to distinguished Thurles Archbishops and priests whom he remembered as a boy in Thurles.

WATERFORD—Over the Century

Mrs. Power, of Kilnagrane, County Waterford, died recently at the age of 105 years. She was the widow of a small farmer, who predeceased her about thirty years ago. Until quite recently Mrs. Power was able to walk from her home, a distance of some miles, to receive her old age pension. Her father died at 107, and her grandfather lived until he was 111 years of age. Thus in three generations a record of 323 years has been made in the direct succession named.