

deal with them. Referring to the question of Home Rule, he said that before any scheme of Home Rule was laid before Parliament by a responsible Ministry it would be necessary—he was using careful language—that this whole financial question, the whole question of the financial relations between England and Ireland, what they were in reality, what their bearing was upon both countries, all that would have to be found out authoritatively, and it would be. With regard to the question of economies in the future government of Ireland, he thought that they could not be easily secured. There were two classes of expenditure in the government of Ireland. There was reproductive expenditure, and expenditure also very necessary for the government of a country which was not of that character. He would not advise anybody to think that they could save much on the Congested Districts Board within any reasonable time that they could look forward to, and what was more he did not think they ought to look to save money upon it. A part of Ireland that had been the subject of neglect for centuries, that had been left by a great, rich, and powerful Government under this Union in squalor and wretchedness was a positive scandal to Union and Unionists alike, and he hoped that nobody advocating an Irish Parliament, and that no Irish Parliament when it came into existence would ever dream of attempting to find economies there. It was the last place in the world they ought to look for them. The expenditure would have to go on, because these people must be rescued from the shocking state in which the English Government had left them for centuries. And he was not quite sure that they could look within a reasonable time for a very great saving on such a work as the Land Commission was doing. Talk as people did about the enormous expense attendant upon this work. The work was carrying out a revolution. It was undoing the confiscations of Elizabeth, of Cromwell, and of William. Revolutions could not be carried out in a day, and he would not advise anybody to think that this work could be hastened very much. But there were other savings that might fairly be considered. He was not saying that they could be made, and he had no right to anticipate inquiry into the matter. If anyone came inquiring to the Department of Agriculture he would give a perfectly firm and clear answer that they could not do with less money, but that they could do with a great deal more. The English people had many faults, but they had some great virtues, and one of their virtues was that they could take an eminently reasonable view of a business proposition. The Unionists of the country had got to face the situation. He believed that finance was reconcilable, and would be reconciled, and that before three years were out the bells would ring in that old House in College Green, and the King would open his first Irish Parliament there.

IRISH CAMPAIGN IN BRITISH CONSTITUENCIES

Mr. John Dillon, M.P., visited Aberdeen early in March and lectured under the auspices of the Young Scots' Society.

Mr. Dillon, on rising to speak, was received with loud and prolonged cheers. He said that it was twenty-five years since he last spoke in Aberdeen. During that long period the Irish cause had been in the forefront of politics. This was a remarkable testimony to the virility of the Irish cause. In defining what was meant by Home Rule, Mr. Dillon said that they of the Irish Party were content to rest upon Mr. Asquith's definition as given in his speech in the Albert Hall. Their demand was for full self-government for Ireland in all purely Irish affairs. Granted this, they were content to accept, without reserve and in good faith, the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament, and to take up their lot loyally and honestly with the other component parts of the Empire. He went on to demonstrate the evils attending the granting of half measure Home Rule, and instanced the case of South Africa, where, under a full measure of local self-government, prosperity and peace now reigned. He believed that such a measure would be granted to Ireland within the life of the present Government.

Scotch Home Rule.

Turning to the case of Scotland, Mr. Dillon said that he had been frequently asked both inside the House and outside about the state of Scotland. He had been asked if the Irish were willing to help Scotland to get what was desired. He replied that they had been always willing to give their assistance in the matter of Home Rule, but that there was a difference between the state of Scotland and that of Ireland. Scotland's case was not nearly so urgent as that of Ireland, and Ireland was due preference in the matter because she had been first in the field, and had fought her own battle. He compared the positions of Scotland and Ireland in their relation to England under the Union. In Scotland in the year 1801, the year of the Irish Union, the population was 1,638,000, and in Ireland it was 3,395,000. That is to say, that at that time Ireland had three times the population of Scotland, and they also had double the wealth. In 1901, the year of the last census, the population of Scotland was 4,472,000, and that of Ireland, 4,458,000. He believed that when the next census was taken Scotland would be over four and a-half millions in population, and Ireland down to four and a-

quarter. He also ventured to say that Scotland was now twice, perhaps three times, as wealthy as Ireland, whereas at the time of the Union the reverse was the case. It was on such figures as these they demanded Home Rule, and he challenged any man who defended the Union to point out any country of modern times that had withered away in the same way as Ireland had done under English rule.

The Religious Question.

Referring next to the question of religious toleration in Ireland, he said that it was often alleged that Home Rule would mean Rome Rule. Taking up a stand on the side of the Irish Catholics, Mr. Dillon said that any intolerance in Ireland was not to be found where Catholics were in the majority, but where they were in the minority, particularly in the North-East corner of Ulster. It was found that throughout the greater part of Ireland Protestants and Catholics lived and traded on the best of terms. Such cases as that of Mrs. McCann, which had been made a political weapon, and which had even been discussed in the House of Commons, was a gross insult to Ireland, and an outrage on the House of Commons. All were now ashamed of Mrs. McCann, and had fallen back on the general broad principle of the *Ne Temere* Decree. This was a totally different question. After enlarging somewhat on the Decree, Mr. Dillon said that it was justifiable in any Christian Church to oppose the law of the State, if they believed it was opposed to the law of God, and so far as the Catholics of Ireland were concerned, they would follow the law of the Church in such matters as were dealt with in the *Ne Temere* Decree. At the conclusion of his address, Mr. Dillon paid a high tribute to the Liberalism of Scotland, and to their work on behalf of Home Rule.

Mr. James Esslemont proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Dillon, and gave some interesting reminiscences of former meetings in which he had taken part.

On rising to reply, Mr. Dillon was received with tumultuous applause, the audience rising en masse and cheering with great heartiness.

After the meeting many old friends of Mr. Dillon were presented to him in the private room, not a few of whom had been present at his first meeting in Aberdeen twenty-five years ago.

Diocesan News

ARCHDIOCESE OF WELLINGTON

(From our own correspondent.)

April 22.

The Rev. Father Taylor conducted a retreat for the students of St. Patrick's College during the week.

Mass was celebrated for the first time in the new Church Schoolroom at Brooklyn on Easter Sunday by the Rev. Father Venning, S.M.

At St. Mary of the Angels', on Easter Sunday, Very Rev. Dean Regnault, S.M. (Provincial), celebrated High Mass, Rev. Father Venning being deacon, and Rev. Father J. Goggan sub-deacon. Dean Regnault also preached.

The Masterton people are endeavouring to induce Mr. R. Hazleton, one of the Irish delegates who arrives at Wellington on May 1, to visit Masterton.

The Redemptorist Fathers will commence a mission at St. Anne's, Wellington South, on next Tuesday. The first week is to be devoted to the children. The mission for the adults commences on Sunday, April 30, and will be continued until May 14.

The death occurred on Thursday of Mr. D. J. Collins at the age of 34 years. The late Mr. Collins, who was formerly in the railway service, was at one time a well-known figure in Association football circles in this city. The funeral takes place to-morrow, leaving the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.—R.I.P.

High Mass was celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on Easter Sunday by the Right Rev. Mgr. Fowler, who also preached an impressive sermon. In the evening his Grace Archbishop Redwood, assisted by Rev. Fathers Hickson and Peoples, officiated at Solemn Vespers and Benediction. His Grace also preached on the day's festival.

At St. Anne's, Wellington South, on Easter Sunday, the Ven. Archdeacon Devoy celebrated High Mass, with Rev. Fathers Herring and Mahony as deacon and sub-deacon respectively. In the evening Right Rev. Mgr. Fowler preached an impressive sermon on the Resurrection.

At St. Joseph's, Buckle street, on Easter Sunday, his Grace Archbishop Redwood pontificated, Very Rev. Father O'Shea, V.G., being assistant priest, Rev. Father Schaefer deacon, and Rev. Father Taylor as sub-deacon. His Grace preached an impressive sermon on the Resurrection. In the evening the Rev. Father Gondringer, of St. Patrick's College, preached on 'The Triumph of the Catholic Church.'

The Ven. Archdeacon Devoy, S.M., celebrated the sixty-eighth anniversary of his birthday on April 16. The Archdeacon was the recipient of many congratulatory messages, as the occasion was one of more than passing importance, inasmuch as the anniversary this year happened on Easter Sunday, the day on which he was born in 1843.