

Irish News

CORK—A Good Record

Some time ago a Unionist member of Parliament, in a passing reference to the last election in Cork, described it in the House of Commons as the occasion of fierce rioting which produced many cases for policeman and doctor (says the *Freeman's Journal*). He was promptly contradicted by two of the opposing candidates who, as they were on the spot, could speak with an authority which the Unionist could not claim. Additional proof of the recklessness of the charge is furnished by the address of the Lord Chief Baron in opening the City Commission in Cork. The facts were so remarkable as to extort a special tribute from the Judge to the good order that must have prevailed when political feeling was running very high. An increase in minor offences might reasonably be feared in a year in which two general elections were held, but as compared with 1909 there were not half the number of convictions for common assault; in larceny a decrease of 25 per cent. took place, and convictions for drunkenness fell from 2071 to 1454. These are the facts, but they will not check the flow of Unionist slander.

KERRY—A Priest Honored

The priests and people of Kerry learned with feelings of genuine satisfaction of the promotion to the dignity of Canon of the Rev. Arthur Murphy, P.P., Brosna. The name of Father Arthur Murphy is a household word throughout his native county, where as a patriotic priest of the advanced type his work for faith and fatherland is well known and appreciated.

LIMERICK—The Cultivation of Tobacco

On March 21 in the House of Lords the Earl of Denbigh, in asking whether his Majesty's Government would now reconsider their refusal to encourage the production of home-grown sugar on the same lines as they had encouraged Irish tobacco—namely, by remitting one-third of the Excise Duty down to the close of 1909, called attention to the fact that the receipts of duty on Irish-grown tobacco had increased from £736 in 1905 to £11,785 in 1910. The Earl of Dunraven said it was impossible to draw any comparison between tobacco-growing in Ireland and sugar beet-growing in England. The former industry had been deliberately destroyed by the action of the State and, therefore, there was a moral claim on the State to assist in its revival. Moreover, the import duty on sugar was so low that it would be impossible to charge a lower Excise Duty on the home-grown article. Continuing, he spoke of the experiments he had conducted himself in tobacco-growing in Ireland. In his opinion, the 3d per lb allowed as rebate by the Excise authorities to growers and re-handlers was quite inadequate, having regard to the considerable expense which the work involved. The Treasury were making a good deal of profit out of these tobacco-growing transactions at present. He had been growing from 25 to 30 acres of tobacco per annum for the last few years, and in respect to the yield for the years 1907, 1908, and 1909, he paid to the Treasury the sum of £6300, whilst the amount he received in assistance from the Treasury was only £1387. The Treasury, therefore, made practically £5000 out of him on the transaction. From the 30,000lbs of tobacco resulting from last year's crop the amount he would receive would be about £750, whilst the Treasury would receive £5000. The tobacco-growing experiments in Ireland had demonstrated that an article either of American or Turkish tobacco could be produced at a fair price, and that the crop was of immense value as a means of giving employment in the country. He strongly urged the increase of the rebate allowed.

MONAGHAN—The Welfare of the Country

The Most Rev. Dr. McKenna, in putting as chairman of a meeting at Monaghan a vote of thanks to the Rev. Dr. McCaffrey for a lecture on 'Grattan's Parliament,' said that though they could not hope at present to obtain the degree of independence enjoyed by Grattan's Parliament, they should insist strongly on independence on those things that affected the welfare of the country, and especially should their representatives be instructed to see that the finances were all right.

TIPPERARY—Temperance Pledges

Rev. Father McNamara, C.S.S.R., who during March gave a retreat in Nenagh, at the close of an eloquent sermon on the vice of intemperance, administered the total abstinence pledge to over 1000 men of the parish and district.

A Beautiful Gift

The women's Sacred Heart Confraternity of the parish of Tipperary has presented to the clergy of the parish an exceedingly beautiful set of High Mass vestments in cloth of gold. The cost of the vestments was £100. The present was accepted by Very Rev. Canon Arthur Ryan, P.P., V.G., who returned his sincere thanks for the handsome gift.

Death of an Oblate Father

To the regret of a wide circle of friends in Tipperary and other parts of the country, and particularly amongst the priests and laity of Inchicore, Dublin, the death occurred on March 16 of Father Roger Hennessy, O.M.I. The de-

ceased priest had labored in the sacred ministry in Inchicore for about seven years, but he had been ailing for some months, and died at the residence of his brother, Dr. Thomas Hennessy, Clogheen, County Tipperary.

WATERFORD—A Priest's Heroism

Thrilling scenes were witnessed recently near Ardmore, County Waterford, in connection with the wreck of the schooner *Teaser*, which was driven by a fierce gale on the Black Rocks. Three of the crew—T. Hughes, master, Connah's Quay; the mate, Fox, of Flint; and an A.B., Walsh, of Flint—have died of exposure, while the cook is missing. When the rocket apparatus failed to be taken advantage of by the exhausted crew of the schooner, the Rev. J. O'Shea wanted to launch a small boat to go to the rescue, but at the instance of one of the coastguard officers a more seaworthy boat was procured at some distance, and Father O'Shea was the first volunteer, others following his example, and the boat being manned, reached the schooner after a severe struggle. Two men were taken alive from the wreck, but both died shortly afterwards, one of them succumbing before the shore was reached.

WESTMEATH—The Woollen Industry

The *Irish Industrial Journal* says that the Irish woollen industry is at present enjoying unexampled prosperity. A huge building is being added to the Athlone Woollen Mills, which will increase the output by one-fourth or one-fifth. When the new works are completed, the Athlone Woollen Mills will compare with, if they do not surpass, any mill in Great Britain or Ireland for efficiency. A similar story of progress has to be told concerning Dripsey Woollen Mills. It used to be the motto of Dripsey some years ago that there were no unemployed in the district and no emigration from it. The trouble now is not to find employment for unemployed, but to find employees for the mills. The company is looking for families of woollen workers, and will be only too glad to get them.

GENERAL

The Finance of Home Rule

The Prime Minister on March 20 assured Mr. W. O'Brien that 'financial experts and other well-qualified persons' were being taken into consultation by the Government in regard to the finance of Home Rule, and that they include 'representatives of different sections of Irish opinion.'

The Progress of Temperance

The marvellous success of the temperance crusade in Ireland (writes a Dublin correspondent) is clearly proved by the almost complete absence of drunkenness on St. Patrick's Day. In the Dublin Metropolitan Police Courts on March 18 there were just eight charges, and it must be remembered that in an English city of the same population probably not half of these defendants would have been deemed deserving of arrest. In Dublin the unfortunate constable has to discover cases or pay the penalty by being hauled before his superiors and fined or perhaps deprived of his rank. Seeing that the public-houses were open on the National festival, the smallness of the number of cases speaks well for the self-reliance and self-respect of the people. The temperance pledge given to the young at Confirmation has, in the opinion of many, been the most powerful factor in promoting sobriety, for when the drink habit is not acquired in youth, it seldom is contracted in maturer years. Then the crusade carried on by the Capuchin Fathers at the request of the Irish Bishops has had remarkable effects. The Anti-Treating League, St. Patrick's League of the West, and numerous lay agencies have all helped to stamp out intemperance. The judges in many places, addressing the grand juries, have noted with pleasure the marked decrease in drunkenness, to which in a large measure they attribute the peaceable state of the country. At a temperance ceremonial in Mullingar Cathedral, Most Rev. Dr. Goughran dwelt on the temperance question. They were now, he said, on the eve of getting Home Rule. Soon, he hoped, they would again see their people in plenty on the fair hills and in the valleys of Ireland, contented and prosperous. But when Home Rule came, with it would come increased duties and responsibilities in connection with the ruling, the administrative work, and the building up generally of the country. To whom would these tasks fall? Would it be to a temperate or an intemperate people? The young people of to-day were those who would be called upon to discharge these important duties towards Ireland under self-government, and if they were assured that the performance of these tasks would fall to a temperate people they might be certain that prosperity and contentment would follow. The wonderful growth of temperance certainly goes to show that the self-government of Ireland will be in the hands of a sober people.

The Crimeless State of the Country

The congratulations extended by his Majesty's judges to the grand juries up and down the country at the Spring Assizes (says a Dublin correspondent) are assuredly a complete answer to Orange calumniators of their native land, and also to their abettors in Great Britain. At Donegal Judge Wright said he had it on very good authority from the County Inspector of Constabulary that the county was law-abiding and peaceable, and he believed such was the case. Judge Cherry said the County Down was in a state of profound peace. The Lord Chief Justice of Ireland at Kilkenny said he was glad to find the county in the same