

## Irish News

### ANTRIM—A Spirit of Independence and Toleration

The annual meeting of the Ulster Liberal Association was held in Belfast recently under the chairmanship of Sir Hugh Mack, Mr. T. W. Russell being the principal speaker. Mr. Russell said that, looking back over an experience of many years, he could truly say that he never remembered the country being in a more satisfactory and hopeful state. Reformation proceeded apace; crime was at a very low ebb, and the people generally were contented and fairly prosperous. With the advent of better times there had come a spirit of independence, toleration, sobriety, and good feeling, which would stand for the settlement of Ireland both politically and socially. The Protestant minority in the South and West of Ireland were in many cases the leaders in commerce and agriculture. These people, living in intensely Catholic communities, had no fear of Irish self-government. The Protestant democracy of Dublin, said Mr. Russell, would not always be the dupes of leaders who did not know how to lead. A year or two of honest and fair government would convince them that their civil and religious liberty would stand unimpaired, and that by becoming Irishmen they had lost nothing and had gained much for themselves and for their country.

### World's Greatest Dry Dock

The latest graving dock in the world, constructed at the lower end of the County Down side of Belfast Harbour, was opened on April 1 by the successful docking therein of the world's largest vessel, the new 45,000 tons White Star liner Olympic, recently launched from Harland and Wolff's yard. The dock is 850ft long, 100ft wide on the floor, and 42ft 6in deep from coping to floor. Its cost was £350,000, and it took eight years to construct. Perfect ease and very little commotion on the part of the workmen either on the steamer or on shore attended the ceremony, which was witnessed by thousands of enthusiastic spectators, thronging both sides of the Lagan. So well were the arrangements carried out that the docking was completed within 50 minutes, and just at high tide the great vessel was in her new environment without a scrape on the paint of her vast hull.

### Serious Fire in Belfast

On Sunday morning, March 26, the Belfast Fire Brigade were engaged for several hours at a serious outbreak which occurred on the premises of Messrs. Patterson and Sons and of D. Leitch and Co., flax merchants, of Talbot street. Over 150 tons of flax were stored in the premises, and this was completely destroyed. The damage to the contents alone amounted to over £10,000, while the partial destruction of the premises will add to the total loss. In the present scarcity of flax the fire will affect the local linen industry.

### DOWN—An Interesting Find

While digging his land near Novia, Co. Down, the other day, a farmer turned up a bronze coin about the size of a two shilling piece. He cleaned it, and found to his astonishment that it was a Roman coin nearly 2000 years old. It is said that on one side it bears a clear impress of the head of the Roman Emperor, Vespasian, who lived A.D. 9 to 79.

### DUBLIN—Candidates for Confirmation

During the last week in March his Grace the Archbishop of Dublin administered the Sacrament of Confirmation, in accordance with his annual custom, in the Metropolitan Church, to more than 900 children. Owing to the prevalence of sickness in the city and the large number of children, his Grace, with characteristic thoughtfulness, dispensed the children from the usual catechetical examination. At the conclusion of the ceremony his Grace delivered a short address to the children, in which he exhorted them to be mindful of the obligations they contracted in the Sacrament of Confirmation, and be ever faithful in after life to their religious duties. He then administered the pledge to the children present.

### Groaned and Hooted

The strained relations which have for a long time past existed between the Protestants attending St. John's Church, Sandymount, owing to Ritualistic practices which it is alleged have been introduced by the incumbent, were further emphasised on Sunday, April 2. The Most Rev. Dr. Peacocke, Protestant Archbishop of the diocese, when on his way to his carriage, after having conducted a Confirmation service in the building, was groaned and hooted by members of the congregation who had assembled outside the church.

### Death of a Priest

Much regret is expressed throughout the diocese of Dublin at the death of the Very Rev. Richard Conlan, which occurred at his residence, Dartmouth square, on April 2. The late Father Conlan was formerly parish priest of St. Michan's and a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of Dublin. He had been in failing health for

some years, and had resigned several important positions. He had served in the Pro-Cathedral parish, Dublin, for upwards of twenty years, and was much beloved by all who knew him.

### The Corporation and Women's Suffrage

Dublin Corporation, by a majority, has decided to attend at the Bar of the House of Commons to present a petition in favor of Women's Suffrage.

### GALWAY—The New Cathedral

The Most Rev. Dr. Clancy, Bishop of Elphin, in sending to Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, a cheque for £25, being the first instalment of an intended subscription of £100 towards the fund for the erection of the new Galway Cathedral, says now that Galway is likely to become an important centre of University life, it ought not to be difficult to persuade the public of the need of a Cathedral Church, and he has no doubt generous co-operation will come from many quarters.

### KING'S COUNTY—A Supposed Miser's Hoard

While a laborer was working in a hayshed which was undergoing renovation at Clonbullogue, Edenderry, King's County, he came across a considerable quantity of money, which was securely tied in a handkerchief. The parcel contained £113 in gold, £3 in silver, as well as some coppers. The workman instantly reported the matter to the police, who are making inquiries. The belief is expressed that the hoard belonged to some miser tramp who slept in the hayshed for a night, and absent-mindedly left his money behind. The police have taken possession of the 'find,' and if the owner does not come forward it may revert to the Crown as 'treasure trove.'

### LIMERICK—White Gloves for the Judge

At the Limerick City Quarter Sessions Court Judge Law Smith was presented with white gloves by Sheriff Halliday to mark the fact that no criminal case was listed for hearing. The Judge said that he understood that a similar presentation would be made by the county, and expressed his satisfaction and gratitude at this happy condition of things.

### TIPPERARY—A Venerable Religious

The death took place on Sunday, April 2, of a venerable and widely-esteemed Tipperary Nun, Rev. Mother Agnes Ryan, of the Presentation Convent, Fethard. Deceased, who had reached the venerable age of 81 years, came from the mother house in Thurles, 49 years ago, to found the Fethard branch, and the success of her half-century of zealous labor for religion and education is to be found in the magnificent conventual establishment that crowns the rocky eminence to the north-east of the historic little town.

### TYRONE—No Criminal Business

His Honor Judge Todd sat in Dungannon Courthouse on April 3, to dispose of the Crown business of the division. The Under-Sheriff said there being no criminal business to come before the Court, it was his pleasing duty once more to present his Honor with a pair of white gloves. His Honor said he was very pleased once more to receive white gloves from the Sheriff. The first time he sat in Dungannon he was much gratified to receive white gloves from the Sheriff, and had several times since had similar gifts. He was indeed very much gratified at the satisfactory state of his native county.

### GENERAL

#### Emigration Figures

Notwithstanding all the efforts of Irish industrial revivalists within recent years, emigration from Ireland for 1910 shows an increase of 3693 on the figures for 1909 (says the *Glasgow Observer*). Last year there left the country 32,923 persons—18,113 males and 14,810 females. To the exodus Leinster contributed 4258, Munster 8330, Connacht 7598, and 'prosperous' Ulster provided 12,271 emigrants, the average per 1000 of population being 3.7, 7.7, 11.7, and 7.8 for the provinces respectively. The most notable and most deplorable feature of the rush from the country lies in the fact that 86.9 per cent. of the emigrants were between the ages of 15 and 35 years, the very flower of the population. Since 1851 4,187,443 persons have emigrated from Ireland, this being equivalent to 78.2 per cent. of the average population. Munster provided 1,459, 239 to this deplorable total, being equal to 104.8 per cent. of the average population of the province. Connacht gave 701,572, or 84.8 per cent.; Ulster, 1,190,194, or 66.7 per cent.; and Leinster, 725,699 persons, or the average of 53.8 per cent.

#### A Strange Visitation

Great excitement was caused in different districts in Wexford, Waterford, and Tipperary towards the end of March through invasions of the district by birds—principally starlings. Thousands descended upon New Ross, causing consternation in the streets. Many of the birds were captured, and a great number were drowned in the Barrow. It is thought that the birds were on a migratory expedition. In Carrick-on-Suir a similar phenomenon occurred, the birds screaming and dashing against the