

Irish News

ANTRIM—Treatment of Women in Belfast

The Rev. Mr. Osborne, minister of Rutland square Presbyterian Church, Dublin, speaking under the auspices of the Irish Women's Suffrage Association recently, advised his audience to read an article in an English magazine on the treatment of women in Belfast. It would make their blood boil. The Lord Mayor of Belfast had the audacity to stand up in the House of Commons and to declare that there was no sweating of the workers in Belfast. He (Mr. Osborne) knew as a matter of fact—he had it on very good authority—that those statements which were made some time ago by Miss Margaret Irvine of the women workers in Belfast were true. Because the women workers of Belfast had not votes a woman had to stitch on a handkerchief or some piece of linen 138 dots with thread which she bought herself, and all she received for that was one penny, and in addition she had to lose the time occupied in going to and from the factory with her work.

ARMAGH—A Destructive Fire

On Sunday evening, April 23, the fiercest and most destructive conflagration, considering the period it lasted, ever witnessed in the town of Lurgan, broke out in the extensive premises occupied by Messrs. Little and Campbell, grocers and provision merchants, Church place. The outbreak apparently originated on the second storey of the building; and, in a very short time, aided by a strong south-westerly gale, the front portion of the premises was entirely enveloped in flames; and it was the general opinion that the three new shops in course of erection by Mr. John O'Hagan on the north side, and the premises occupied by Mrs. McCusker, victualler, on the south, as well as the post office and other buildings towards the north, would become involved. It was early recognised that Messrs. Little and Campbell's premises were inevitably doomed; and the brigade accordingly directed their efforts towards confining the outbreak to the building in which it had originated, and with such remarkable success that none of the surrounding premises suffered damage to any serious extent. The damage is estimated at between £5000 and £6000.

CLARE—Elementary Agriculture

The Clare County Committee of Agriculture has adopted a resolution, strongly expressing the opinion that in the National School the principles of Elementary Agriculture should be taught, if any widespread benefit is to result from the efforts of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland.

DUBLIN—Proportional Representation

Lord Courtney, of Penwith, speaking in Dublin, on April 20, said the question was how they were to govern themselves. He came to Dublin not as a Unionist or as a Nationalist, Catholic or Protestant—not even as an Irishman. He came as a political thinker, with the message that if they wanted to launch the Ireland of the future on sure and stable lines, if they would have the Government so placed as to command the respect and confidence of all, and their action so governed that no complain should be raised, they should accept the principle of proportional representation.

GALWAY—The Teaching of Agriculture

In each of the seven deaneries of the archdiocese of Tuam the following resolution, which has the warmest approval of the Archbishop, Most Rev. Dr. Healy, and all his priests, has been adopted: 'That we consider the teaching of agriculture on thoroughly practical and up-to-date lines to the youth of Ireland a question of the most urgent importance, and vitally necessary for the economic development of this country, particularly along the Western area. Our people are naturally tenacious of old customs, and we regret to see that the most backward and primitive methods of cultivating the land are still in vogue, with the lamentable result that the agricultural industry, destined to be the main industry of Ireland in the future, is making little or no progress. We call upon the various boards concerned to co-operate generously for the establishment of a better system. We are decidedly of opinion that the teaching of agriculture should be re-established in the National Schools, particularly in the rural districts; and whilst the lands of the country are in the hands of the Congested Districts Board we think that suitable plots should be acquired in the vicinity of the schools, so that the teaching carried out should be not merely theoretical, but productive of really practical and permanent results.'

LIMERICK—White Gloves for the Judge

At the Spring Quarter Sessions at Omagh (Co. Tyrone), Armagh City, Rathkeale (Co. Limerick), and Wicklow, the County Court judges were presented with white gloves in token of blank criminal calendars. Judge Law Smith, at Rathkeale, remarked that this was the third pair of white gloves he had received on the Sessions circuit—one at Limerick City, one in the eastern division, and this one in the western division.

MAYO—Land Purchase

The last portion of the estate of the Earl of Lucan, who was the first landlord in Mayo to dispose of his property to the Congested Districts Board, has just been purchased by the board, with the exception of the parks surrounding Castlebar, which are being retained by Lord Lucan with the intention of dividing them among the town tenants of Castlebar when the town comes to be purchased.

Secondary Education Starved

The new intermediate school, Castlebar, was recently the scene of a very interesting function, when Father McHugh, P.P., Crossboyne, who had been in the United States collecting funds for the institution, was presented with an address by the professors and students. In replying, the rev. gentleman paid a warm tribute of praise to the generosity of the exiled sons of Erin, and hailed with delight the fact that the new Intermediate School was to be conducted by the best and most successful educators in the English-speaking world—the Christian Brothers. The intermediate education system, he said, was in a chaotic condition. The Treasury provided no money for the erection or the equipment of such schools as that. And what was worse, there was no provision for the training of a professional body of intermediate teachers—a matter so essential in any educational system. In fact, the ordinary observer of their educational needs could not fail to see that secondary education should be placed on as firm a basis at least as their primary system. Let them hope that the Government that granted the charter of a National University would speedily remove the obstacles on the only road that led to that institution.

The Settlement of the Land Question

Most Rev. Dr. Healy, Archbishop of Tuam, during a Confirmation visitation at Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, in the course of his address to the people, said that every other matter in the Irish political world is subsidiary to the settlement of the land question and the dividing up of the land amongst those who will till it; there could be no happiness or prosperity in Ireland until this change is effected. The sooner landlords and tenants came to just terms the better for both, as the matter was easier of settlement now than it would be as time went on. His Grace especially denounced outrages as a means of forcing settlements.

MEATH—A Veteran Priest

The announcement of the death of the Rev. John Rooney, Drumconrath, Ardee, who has passed away at the age of eighty-four, has caused great regret throughout the diocese of Meath, where he was respected by all classes. Father Rooney, who was for twenty-five years in charge of Drumconrath parish, never recovered from the effects of an illness with which he was stricken down last October. Nevertheless he discharged the duties of his sacred calling until the last. Although he took no part in public life, the National movement had at all times his sympathy and practical support.

WEXFORD—Death of an Editor

The death of Mr. Simon McGuire, editor of the Wexford Free Press, has caused widespread regret not alone in journalistic circles, but amongst a large number of other acquaintances. Mr. McGuire, who was one of the most popular pressmen in Ireland, possessed a charming and amiable personality. He was a journalist of rare ability and a stout fighter for the Nationalist cause. Mr. McGuire, who was the eldest son of Captain Hugh McGuire, one time Mayor of Wexford, had been associated with the Free Press since its foundation in 1888, with an interval of a year, during which he was attached to the editorial staff of the National Press in Dublin. His popularity and the respect in which he was held were striking tributes to his character and courtesy. The largest and most representative funeral cortege seen in Wexford for many years accompanied his remains to the family burial ground.

New Church at Enniscorthy

Enniscorthy is soon to have a new church. The present church was built by the late Richard Devereux, but is now much too small for the needs of the parishioners. Accordingly, Father Rossiter, Superior of the House of Missions, petitioned the Bishop for permission to build a new church, and his Lordship has consented to sanction the commencement of building operations as soon as there is a response to the appeal for funds. The new church will be built on the Templeshannon side of the town.

GENERAL

The Closing of Prisons

Mr. Birrell, Chief Secretary, informed Mr. Nannetti, M.P., that five prisons, six minor prisons, ten bridewells, and one lock-up have been closed in Ireland since the appointment of the present Chairman of General Prisons Board in 1895.

The Condition of Primary Education

Many matters affecting the condition of primary education were discussed at the annual congress of the Irish National teachers, which was held at Bangor. That Irish schoolmasters are inadequately paid is now generally admitted (remarks a Dublin correspondent). The salaries they receive are considerably less than those paid for doing similar work in Great Britain. Why this should be so can-