

being £316,500. The centres of supply have been, mainly, Howth, Kilkeel, Ardglass, Buncrana, Cleggan, Cahirciveen, Kinsale, Galway, and Dublin. Contrasted with the year 1909, there were only 5652 vessels engaged in sea fishing, as against 5976, and in hands employed—men and boys—there was a decrease of 1542, the figures being for 1910 20,690, as against 22,232. The development of motor power in fishing has continued, and it is said that the demand for large fishing vessels has been so great that the building yards have been unable to keep pace with it.

Utilisation of Peat

During the past half-century many unsuccessful attempts have been made to utilise the stores of energy in the peat bogs of Ireland. At a meeting of the Institution of Civil Engineers in Ireland, Mr. P. C. Cowan, in the course of a very interesting presidential address, said that there was now some hope that this problem was near solution. At a weaving factory at Portadown a peat gas engine has lately been erected by which power is obtained at a fuel cost of only one-sixteenth of a penny per brake horse-power per hour. The interesting plant supplies the driving power for Mr. Hamilton Robb's weaving factory, which employs between five and six hundred workers. The peat itself is cut from a bog near Lough Neagh, dried in the open air in the ordinary way, and brought by water to Portadown, a cheap method of transit.

Mr. Justin McCarthy rounded out eighty-one years of a useful life on November 21. Mr. McCarthy, who has long been regarded as one of the foremost living men of letters, was born in Cork in 1830, and at an early age began his career as a reporter in the gallery of the House of Commons. The work by which he will be longest remembered is his *History of Our Own Times*. Mr. McCarthy is in good health, and continues actively at work.

People We Hear About

Very Rev. Canon P. A. Sheehan, of Doneraile, County Cork, Ireland, whose new romance of the French Revolution, bearing the interesting title of *The Queen's Fillet*, promises to be one of the most successful of his various books, is a hearty 'young' man at sixty, whose chief recreation is gardening. Despite his onerous parochial duties as Canon of Cloyne, he finds time to write stories, essays, and poems which have an international sale. According to the *London Bookman*, *My New Curate* ran through twenty editions in the United States. This was immediately followed by *Luke Delmege*, which was promptly translated into all the European languages and ran through five editions in Germany alone.

One of the traits which endear the Duke of Norfolk to the people of Sheffield is his unconventionality (writes the *Yorkshire Daily Observer*). The utter absence of any attitude of aloofness is particularly marked when he is amongst his especial friends, the Catholics of the city. Then the Earl Marshal of England moves about as freely and with less fuss than many a provincial Mayor. He was in Sheffield recently entertaining Cardinal Logue, the Irish Primate, who had come over to dedicate a new tower at St. Vincent's Church, and he attended a conversazione held in honor of the Cardinal in the church hall, a building situated in the heart of Sheffield's slums. An observer could not help contrasting this little room where the Duke was making himself the life and soul of a small group of acquaintances with the splendors amid which he so lately moved as master of the Coronation ceremonies. One could imagine that his energy and direct methods were a revelation to the officials who were under his orders during the busy months that preceded the ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

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