

Irish News

ANTRIM—Ireland's Future

In the course of a lecture delivered before the Henry Joy McCracken branch of the United Irish League in the Hibernian Hall, Belfast, on November 26, Mr. S. C. Porter, B.L., a Protestant Home Ruler, said since he had last addressed them several important events had occurred in politics, and notably the now famous overthrow of the House of Lords. That had left the path of progress and freedom open to Ireland. He drew the attention of his audience to the problems which should concern the Irish people when they had self-government. For his part, he did not want self-government for the purpose of achieving national glory in the sense in which glory had been understood in the nineteenth century. He did not want national glory for the purpose of sweeping the seas of a hostile fleet, or of organising a national army to strike fear into the hearts of other nations. He took it all Irishmen wished to live in peace with other nations. What they wanted was to have an opportunity of developing their resources and of living in peace with the whole world. There was no Jingo party in Ireland, and he hoped there never would be one.

Praise for the National Schools

In St. Mary's Hall, Belfast, on November 24, Mr. Philip Ward, who has risen from the ranks of the teaching profession, of which he was an esteemed and successful member for many years, to the coveted position of Commissioner of National Education, was presented by his former colleagues with an illuminated address and a substantial cheque, and Mrs. Ward was presented with a silver tea and coffee service. In acknowledging the gift, Mr. Ward said the all-pervading ideal of modern society was anti-Christian, and the fixed aim of a national system of education should be to destroy that ideal. No country could appeal with stronger reason or greater force or justification to the teaching of antiquity than Ireland. In Ireland the national Education system was no longer alien to the soil; boys and girls were now taught that they had a country worth loving, worth remembering, with great traditions, with a future full of bright hope of coming prosperity and of contentment. A new democratic Ireland was arising and it would be necessary to keep pace with the altered and progressive conditions. He defended the national education system, hampered as it is in many ways, and said the work of the teachers could not be excelled anywhere in Europe. Mr. Ward quoted Archbishop Healy's remarks on the subject, and said that a party of American teachers, passing through the country a few months ago, visited some of the rural schools in the neighborhood of Dublin, and freely expressed the opinion that they were doing as effective and successful work as the schools of their own country similarly situated. Perhaps the national education system was too uniform and inelastic in character, but he advised teachers and managers to avail themselves to a greater extent than they do at present of the liberty which the Board is desirous of seeing exercised. They ought to draw up school programmes from the general curricula to suit particular schools and localities. As far as practicable these should be in harmony with the occupations of the people, and with the local interests and industries of the town, the city, or the surrounding country in which the schools are situated.

CORK—The Woollen Trade Healthy

In his report to a recent meeting of the Cork Industrial Development Association, Mr. Fawsitt, the secretary, said the woollen trade appeared in be 'booming,' and that the leading manufacturers in the South of Ireland told him they had difficulty in keeping abreast of orders. The Department's intimation that the Irish export trade in 1910 exceeded the import trade was referred to as indicating a healthy condition of industrial activity in the country.

DUBLIN—Judge Ross and the Gaelic Revival

In proposing a vote of thanks to the auditor at the opening meeting of the Dublin University Gaelic So-

ciety, Mr. Justice Ross said the more the Irish language was cultivated, the higher the admiration it excited in those who studied it. They would take that as a valuable admission from him because when he heard of the Gaelic revival, stimulated by that very remarkable and magnetic man, Dr. Douglas Hyde, he was opposed to it. Since then he had occasion to change his views, and he now declared from his experience that the Irish language had a splendid literature which it would be a great misfortune to neglect. He was astonished to find the enormous amount of history and poetry, even in the names of their townlands. He thought the language was very beautiful, but he did not agree with the idea of compulsion. If Irish were made compulsory it would be hated, but if left alone it would of its own inherent merit attract study. He pointed out amidst applause that all the most cultivated minds in America and in Europe had their attention drawn to Gaelic literature.

An Old Slander Revived

Father Delany, the well known Dublin Jesuit, has written to the *Freeman's Journal* expressing astonishment that Sir Edward Fry, a lawyer and a judge, should in a pamphlet have adopted the abominable slander that the Jesuits teach the doctrine that the end justifies the means. He says he will hand over £50 to any public charity in Dublin if it be established to the satisfaction of a Board of Arbitrators consisting of the Right Hon. J. Hogg, Mr. A. Shackleton, and Mr. R. Goodbody, members of the Society of Friends, that they do.

Total Abstinence League

Amongst the numerous associations working for the cause of sobriety in Ireland, the 'Pioneer Total Abstinence League of the Sacred Heart' holds a leading position. At the annual meeting of that body in the Rotunda, Dublin, on November 22, the Right Rev. Mgr. Mannix, President of Maynooth, paid a well-deserved tribute to the Rev. Father Cullen, S.J., who founded it. His army, since it entered into the great campaign against drink, had never, he said, met with a reverse; it never had a failure; it had gone on from the beginning, increasing in numbers, and marching to certain victory. He thanked Father Cullen for that opportunity of enabling him to witness the magnificent progress the association had made. He thought the last time he was there, the membership could be counted at not more than fifty thousand; he doubted if it now stopped at 200,000. The great progress which had been made was due, under God, to Father Cullen, whose genial presence would, he hoped, grace that platform on many occasions. Father Cullen, who spoke next, said Dr. Mannix was one of the first to join the 'Pioneer' movement and to invite the students to follow his example. The splendid lead which he had given led to the great majority of the Maynooth students joining it. When their association numbered 300,000 they would proceed to enrol another 300,000, and so on until drink in Ireland was only a sad memory of the past. When the long-wished-for day of Home Rule arrived, amongst the earliest enactments in College Green would, he hoped, be found a Bill to foster and consolidate their great temperance movement. Vigorous speeches were delivered by Very Rev. Father Aloysius, Mr. P. J. O'Neill, J.P., and others.

GALWAY—The Connaught Rangers

At a special meeting of the Galway Urban Council on November 27, it was unanimously decided to present an address of welcome to the officers and men of the 2nd Connaught Rangers, who, to the number of 250, were to arrive next day by special train from the Curragh Camp for the purpose of depositing their old colors in the Catholic Chapel attached to Renmoore Barracks. It is the first case in which regimental colors have been placed in an Irish Catholic place of worship. It will also be the first appearance of the regiment in Galway since it was raised some two centuries ago.

KERRY—An Unanswerable Argument

At Tralee Urban Council on November 23, Mr. Oswald Tough, a young Protestant, who had scored highest marks in the local Government Board competi-