

Irish News

GENERAL.

Our Home exchanges report the death of the Rev. Father Kennedy, of Fermoy, one of the best known priests in the South of Ireland.

Mr. Redmond has received cablegrams from the Archbishops of Sydney and Melbourne and the Bishops in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, and New Zealand approving of Home Rule.

The Middleton Guardians have awarded a pension of £70 a year to Mrs. M. Sullivan, school teacher in the Workhouse, who has filled that position for 37 years. It is stated that this is the highest pension that has been paid to a school teacher in Ireland.

On the occasion of his visit to Fermanagh on Assize business, Mr. Justice Dodd was presented with white gloves. This was, his Lordship said, the first time that so gratifying an incident had happened to him.

At recently opened exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin, was to be seen an admirable portrait of Dr. O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick, by the talented Franciscan artist, Father Ephrem Hickey, who has already made his mark as a portrait painter of no mean standing.

The report of the General Council of the Irish County Councils says that the financial clauses of the Home Rule Bill are unsatisfactory, and need drastic amendment. The minimum demand must include Ireland's retention of all her taxes, subject to a 9 per cent. contribution to Great Britain, and the Irish Parliament must control all the Irish services.

Mr. Martin Kennedy, K.S.G., Wellington, chairman of the Bank of New Zealand, sent the following cablegram to Mr. John Redmond, president of the Convention of all Ireland which was held in Dublin to consider the Home Rule Bill:—'New Zealand Home Rulers send congratulations on the splendid outcome of your work. Ireland's great heart can forgive past oppressions, and she will be enabled through the Bill to accept her rightful place in the great Empire to which we are proud to belong.'

The death has just occurred in Galway, at the age of eighty years, of Mr. P. Perrin Skerrett, the last of his name in the city. He had for a long time been a collector of Harbor dues, and retired with an honorarium of £300. The Tribes of Galway, which were of ancient lineage, with associations in many European countries, are thus given in rhyme:—

Athy, Blake, Bodkin, Dean, Darcy, Lynch,
Joyce, Kirwan, Morris, Martin, Skerrett, Ffrench.

IRISH NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Mr. J. E. Redmond presided at the National Convention held in Dublin last week. He said the Bill was the greatest and most satisfactory one that had ever been offered them. It implied the disappearance of Dublin Castle, with all its evil and blood-stained traditions. They would be a nation of fools not to accept the Bill. He was aware that safeguards against religious ascendancy were unnecessary, but as long as anyone in Ireland had honest doubts concerning this he was ready to accept them. The Bill gave Ireland immediate control of ninth-tenths of the Irish services, and eventually the whole. He insisted that the Bill's finance was far better than either of its predecessors. He moved the acceptance of the Bill. The Lord Mayor of Cork seconded the motion, which was carried, amid the greatest enthusiasm and the unfurling of the green flag of Ireland simultaneously.

Three thousand delegates attended the Convention. Mr. Redmond declared that the passionate desire to do justice to the Irish minority had won his approval of the principle of a nominated Senate. He hoped it would include representatives of science, art, and literature. Mr. Gladstone had a great reception. The Conference decided to leave the question of the amendment of the Bill in the hands of a party of three.

FURTHER TESTIMONY TO CATHOLIC TOLERANCE.

At a recent meeting of the North Sligo Executive of the U.I.L., Mr. William Fraser, the vice-president, who occupied the chair, and who is an Irish Protestant Home Ruler, made an important and significant statement with regard to the question of how Protestants are likely to fare under Home Rule in Ireland. In his speech, Mr. Fraser said:—'He differed from the members in creed—he was a Protestant—but Nationalist in politics. 'Now, as to this question of bigotry that we hear so much about,' proceeded the chairman, 'well, I have my own opinion about that. There is not a Protestant in Sligo, so far as I know, who is one bit afraid of Home Rule. Twenty years ago a great number of ignorant Protestants were frightened that if Home Rule were granted Ireland they would be hunted out of the country. That bigotry was preached from the landlord source for the benefit of the landlords themselves, and to work up class against class. There is bigotry preached in Belfast, and, I need not tell you, there is an object in that, but when Home Rule comes, and it must come within the next two years, that will gradually fizzle out and die a natural death. Things then will fall back to their normal condition both Protestants and Catholics will live in peace, happiness, and prosperity, just as they do in America or any other free country. You have again and again elected me, a Protestant, as your vice-president, and I shall again and again use my every endeavor in furtherance of the National cause.'

METHODISTS AND HOME RULE.

Speaking at a meeting of the Dublin and Counties Liberal Association on March 7, Mr. Robert Morgan, J.P., a prominent citizen, said he wished to mention a matter which would secure great publicity next week, and of which a good deal of political capital would be made by the Tory press. That was the proposed so-called 'demonstration of the Methodist Church in Ireland,' to be held in Belfast, against Home Rule. Now, what were the facts? The special body that represented the Methodist Conference throughout the year at the recent meeting in Dublin determined that no public demonstration of the views of the Methodist Church in Ireland on the subject of Home Rule should be made, and that it should keep aloof from all political complications; but a section of ministers and laymen in the extreme North of Ireland had resolved on their own account to make this proposed demonstration. He was surprised to see that the list of speakers appointed for the various meetings included scarcely any minister or layman of any official importance in connection with the Methodist Church. The only minister among them who could at all be called a prominent man happened to be an Englishman; and not a single speaker, either minister or layman, had been secured to represent the Southern part of Ireland. He had reason to know that a very great change had come over the minds of the Methodist Church in Ireland, both ministers and laymen, as regards the attitude which the Church ought to take toward Home Rule.

A DOUBLED SUBSCRIPTION.

At a public meeting held in Killarney for the purpose of starting the Home Rule Fund, the Rev. M. Fuller, Adm., presiding, a letter was read from the Right Rev. Dr. Mangan, Bishop of Kerry, enclosing a double subscription of £10. In the course of his remarks his Lordship said: 'A few days ago the London Times in a leading article asserted that the Catholic body in Ireland were indifferent regarding the success of the proposed Home Rule Bill. It, moreover, indulged in the cheap sneer that the people of Ireland were not prepared to contribute even twopence a head to its advancement. It seems to me that I know something more than the London Times of the feelings of the people on this subject, and I most unhesitatingly say that they are as keen and enthusiastic to-day on the Home Rule question as at any period since its inception. If the Times or any Unionist disbelieves or doubts the truth of this assertion I challenge